

Monday March 2 1998

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Ukraine D 8.50
USA D 8.50
USSR D 8.50

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Cover story

Bringing up Daddy

The men who choose to stay at home.

G2 with European weather

Media

Andrew Neil on Murdoch, Patten and China

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Cricket

Mike Selvey and BC Pires report on the fourth Test

This section page 16

Labour offers new concessions to countryside protesters as 250,000 take to streets of London

The day the city became a shire

Matthew Engel goes for a gentle stroll with the country set

ON A brisk Sunday morning in early spring, the British love the idea of a stroll in the sunshine away from the traffic fumes. Normally, Londoners head for the countryside to do just that.

Yesterday the flow went into reverse. The country came to town. Its representatives walked gently and generally from the Embankment to Hyde Park, no great distance. Some of the marchers have estates bigger than that.

At the end they might have wondered why on earth they bothered, since there was nothing there save a huge banner saying "Finish", as if this were the London Marathon, and two rows of Portaloos. (Relief for the countryside!) It was curiously anti-climactic. There was nothing to do except have a hot dog and a drink and head back home.

One suspects, though, that everyone who took part in this marathon will finish as a winner. The Countryside March was a phenomenally successful piece of politics. The extent of it became clear only if you went back to the start and realised that people were still arriving, if anything in bigger numbers than ever, four hours after the first walkers set off.

Labour strategists watching last night's news cannot have failed to get the message. Opinion polls showing a majority in favour of banning fox hunting are meaningless in the face of a minority this large, this committed.

For years the hunters have been the hunted, politically. But their unexpectedly clever campaign has enabled them to draw away from the jaws of a by-election. Master of Foxhounds Blair must now be desperate to find ways of calling the dogs off.

Mr Blair claimed the march had been hijacked by the pro-hunting lobby. The truth is actually the reverse. This was a pro-hunting demo that had its message diffused and softened by all kinds of extraneous material about the threat to rural life. Everyone in Britain is in favour of the countryside, but as all Americans are for Mom and apple pie.

The difficult bit is deciding whose countryside it is, and what it's for. That's why there were no speeches in Hyde Park. As soon as anyone said anything, the disagreements would start. It might have become obvious that many of the agri-businessmen who



A marshal outside Hyde Park yesterday, where Countryside Alliance marchers took part in the biggest demonstration in London since the early 1980s

PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIAN DENNIS

Anne Perkins on ministers panicking in the face of protest

THE Government was last night trying to broker a compromise on fox hunting after yesterday's Countryside March, which panicked ministers into a series of concessions to the rural lobby before more than 250,000 protesters had even reached London.

The deal, following the biggest protest since the CND marches of the early 1980s, could involve drawing up a code of conduct and licensing hunts on condition they observe it.

Practices such as digging out hunted foxes from their earths, temporarily filling in earths so hunted foxes cannot hide and ending some ways of hunting fox cubs could be outlawed.

But one minister against fox hunting indicated the perils contained in attempting to reach an accommodation when he said last night: "There is no room for arbitration on this issue. You're either for hunting or against it."

A compromise would outrage the 411 MPs who voted for Michael Foster's anti-hunting bill last November, as well as thousands of supporters in the country, but the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, said: "I would like to see more discussions so we can reach conciliation."

Anti-hunting backbenchers are already furious that the Government is refusing to grant extra time to give the bill a chance of becoming law. Mr Meacher yesterday became the first minister to admit it would fail, when he told LWT's Jonathan Dimbleby turn to page 3, column 6

Rural lobby raises its voice pages 4 and 5; Leader and letters, page 9

were on the streets yesterday have done far more to grub up, poison and generally wreck Arcadia than any member of this government.

As it was, they met almost no opposition. The streets of London were otherwise deserted; there was even a shortage of Japanese tourists to explain the Tube system to all the baffled incomers. Londoners might have been tempted to greet them with the traditional rural cry: "Oy, you! Get off my land!" But there were just a couple of dozen anti-hunt lobbyists who shouted rather pathetically at the multitude passed.

A shaven-headed youth gave them V-signs on the corner of Jermyn St. "We sub-

dise you," bellowed another as they paraded by the daffodils in the park. "Why don't you get proper jobs?" Funny thing is people used to shout just the same thing at left-wing protesters in the old days.

This, however, was a protest that glorified the traditional British caste system, indeed even embodied it. As the first conchloada assembled by the river, the great and the good were inside the Savoy having breakfast: a handful of Labour supporters, including the ministers Michael Meacher and Lord Donoghue, who were presumably protesting against themselves, a good sprinkling of Lib Dems, including the

leader, and pretty well every active Tory politician you have ever heard of.

These were all people who come here often enough to be on nodding terms with the doorman, but they were pretending they were out of town.

The peers were in heavy tweeds and clashing checks, as if it were market day. Gullian Shepherd was in grubby cable-knit, as for wedding; Michael Heseltine had dressed to invade Iraq; Virginia Bottomley, bless her, had dressed for the Savoy.

They were all clearly intending to march on their stomachs, though it is quite possible that many did their TV interviews and photo-calls

then went home. No one could be sure: if they did walk, the politicians were expected to stay away from the forward echelons and mingle with the ordinary folk with their confusing mix of banners: "Scottish Terrier Men Say No Way"; "For Fox Sake, Listen To Us"; "No To The Islington Jackboots"; "We Support Blair Chicksens. Now We're Going To Get Her!"; "No to Open Access"; "Buy British Cheese".

And so on, and on. Banner after banner. Mile after mile. Thousands upon thousands. On the Serpentine Bridge 10,000 two adjoining conversations. A tweedy lady was telling her friend: "This is meant to be a bloody de-

mocracy. But you can't do anything these days." Next to her was one of the anti-hunters, trying to explain his case: "This is a democratic country and most people don't want fox hunting."

So what is democracy? It's a deep question for a Sunday stroll, but it is at the heart of the argument.

At what point does a majority's power end and a minority's right begin?

There were many, many subtexts to yesterday's march. But one stood out: the perception that Britain's governing party has a tendency to business on matters of which it knows very little. And this feeling is not confined to fox hunters.

Father Ted actor, 45, dies from suspected heart attack



Dermot Morgan, star of hit Channel 4 series Father Ted

Rory Carroll and Brian Boyd

DERMOT Morgan, alias Father Ted, was killed by a suspected heart attack just when the financial security he always craved was within his grasp, an irony possibly too savage even for Craggy Island.

Years of grind and stress verging on mania caught up with the Irish actor on Saturday night when he collapsed during a dinner party at his home in Richmond, southwest London. He was pronounced dead shortly after midnight at West Middlesex

hospital. Tomorrow would have been his 45th birthday.

"He basically worked himself into the grave. He never ever stopped," said Gerry Stembridge, a close friend and colleague. Morgan complained of heart palpitations last week.

The third series of Father Ted, due to start on Channel 4 this Friday, will be delayed for a week as a mark of respect, said Graham Linehan, one of its two writers.

The Friday night sitcom, surreal and slapstick, showed Morgan and fellow Irish actors Ardal O'Hanlon, Frank Kelly and Pauline McLynn

playing three priests and their housekeeper, living on the fictional Craggy Island, off the west coast of Ireland.

Friends said its huge success — it won a Bafta, two British Comedy Awards and viewer devotion in 10 countries — perhaps came too late to save a creative energy battered by financial and professional insecurity.

Before he moved to Britain, Morgan's satires led to clashes with the Catholic Church and RTE, Ireland's state-backed broadcaster and his occasional employer.

Last week he said he was retiring from Father Ted to

concentrate on solo projects to help secure his finances, which were strained by supporting his house in Richmond, which he shared with his partner and three-year-old son, plus an ex-wife and two other sons in Dublin.

A Chelsea and Shamrock Rovers fan, he signed a deal with Chris Evans's Ginger TV to write a sitcom about two retired footballers, suggesting Denis Waterman as co-star.

He had also just finished a film script about a football match between Ireland and Yugoslavia in the 1950s in Dublin, criticised at the time by the Catholic church hier-

archy because of Yugoslavia's then-Communist government. Tributes were led by the Irish president Mary McAleese, the Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern, and other politicians, many of them victims of Morgan's satire.

Frank Kelly, who played Father Jack, said: "He was a kind of comedic meteor. He literally burned himself out."

A former teacher, the young Morgan planned to become a priest before becoming a lapsed Catholic and saving the church as a stand-up comedian.

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Inside

Britain
Britain's largest defence contractor, GECC, has announced that it has been ordered to investigate the former Tory minister Jonathan Aitken.

World News
A US White House adviser has been accused of a bid to influence the outcome of the US presidential election.

Finance
German satisfaction at making the grade in the single European currency was dealt a double blow by Bavarian and economic experts.

Sport
England took their quick West Indian wickets after avoiding the follow-on in the Guyana Test. Sport broadcaster.

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5 facts about Louise Woodward

1. This Sunday, Louise Woodward, a 22-year-old American nurse, was charged with the murder of a 19-month-old boy in England.
2. On the same day, Woodward was charged with the murder of a 19-month-old boy in England.
3. Woodward was charged with the murder of a 19-month-old boy in England.
4. Woodward was charged with the murder of a 19-month-old boy in England.
5. Woodward was charged with the murder of a 19-month-old boy in England.



tonight at 7pm on 5

PEOPLE LIFE NEWS

2 NEWS

Gerhard Schröder, 'Germany's Blair', named opposition candidate to challenge chancellor after surprise triumph in Lower Saxony

State ballot brings Kohl defeat a big step nearer

Ian Traynor in Hanover

GERMANY'S most popular opposition figure, Gerhard Schröder, took a giant step towards unseating Chancellor Helmut Kohl last night when he was named as the Social Democrats' candidate for the chancellorship after scoring a stunning victory in elections in the northern state of Lower Saxony.

"The Kohl era is over. This signal has been made clear," announced a beaming Mr Schröder. "The desire for a change in Bonn is running deep."

Seeking a third term as prime minister of Lower Saxony, Mr Schröder surprised pundits by increasing his share of the vote by 3 per cent, according to early projections.

His victory reversed a three-year trend of diminishing support for the Social Democrats (SPD) and was the party's best ever result in the state. It was seen as a personal blow for Mr Kohl, who had devoted considerable time to campaigning in the state on behalf of his Christian Democratic party (CDU).

Franz Müntefering, the SPD party manager in Bonn, immediately announced that Mr Schröder had clinched the chancellorship nomination, defeating Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD leader, in the contest to lead the charge against Mr Kohl and the CDU in general elections on September 27.

"I think Helmut Kohl suffered a personal loss in Lower

Saxony," Mr Schröder said. "He turned this into a sort of primary for the federal election, not us. We stood up to the challenge."

Asked about the September election, Mr Schröder said: "We have a good chance. Helmut Kohl said he wanted to teach us a lesson. That didn't seem to work out as he planned." But, he said, Mr Kohl remained a dangerous opponent. "I have never underestimated Helmut Kohl. We haven't beaten him yet."

Early projections gave the SPD almost 48 per cent of the vote, surpassing the most optimistic predictions. The CDU had around 36.4 per cent, the same level as in 1994.

"I'm not only disappointed. I'm very sad," said Christian Wulff, the CDU candidate for Lower Saxony prime minister.

The result means that seven months before the general elections, the opposition campaign has received a tremendous fillip.

Mr Kohl invested heavily in the Lower Saxony campaign, making 11 appearances at rallies in a failed attempt to make inroads into Mr Schröder's support and boost Mr Lafontaine's chances of winning the nomination. Mr Kohl thrashed Mr Lafontaine in 1990 and was confident of being able to beat him again.

The chancellor fears Mr Schröder, aged 53, who opinion polls suggest is the only man who can defeat him.

The SPD executive is to meet today to bless Mr Schröder's nomination and to capitalise on the head of



Gerhard Schröder and his wife Doris arrive at a polling station in Hanover yesterday to cast their votes

PHOTOGRAPH: KAY METZELD

steam building up behind the pragmatic and centrist candidate, the nearest figure in German politics to Tony Blair or Bill Clinton.

"I am delighted," Mr Lafontaine said, toasting Mr Schröder with schnapps.

"Such a score is a great success. I will nominate Gerhard Schröder as our chancellor candidate tomorrow."

A survey last week found an 8 per cent national swing from the Christian to the Social Democrats since the

beginning of this year, with a 16 per cent swing in eastern Germany. That trend could be reinforced by Mr Schröder's triumph.

Mr Kohl's failure in Lower Saxony could provoke a whispering campaign against him

in his party since the opinion polls also signal a preference for his deputy, Wolfgang Schäuble, and a growing consensus that at age 67 and after 16 years in power it is time for Mr Kohl to bow out.

Despite being in opposition for almost 16 years, the SPD has fared wretchedly in all recent state and regional elections. Last night's performance proved to the many sceptics and enemies in his party that Mr Schröder is the Social Democrats' sole votewinner.

Power-hungry maverick with contempt for party peers

GERHARD Schröder, aged 53, was born into poverty in 1944, the same year his father was killed during the war in Romania. He has been married four times and is a self-made, power-hungry maverick, writes Ian Traynor.

For the past year, he has regularly topped the popularity ratings.

Yet just over a year ago, he attracted the tabloids' attentions after leaving his popular and glamorous third wife, Hilma, for Doris Köpf, a Bavarian journalist 20 years his junior.

Mr Schröder keeps his own counsel and is unloved by the Social Democratic Party apparatus, which conceded last night that he is the sole figure capable of putting the SPD in power after 16 years in the wilderness.

Mr Schröder shows his contempt for the party by bragging that in five months he has not once dropped by the party's election campaign headquarters.

He once described his peers and rivals in the party as a bunch of "mediocrities".

Mr Schröder and his four brothers and sisters were reared in Lower Saxony by his mother, a cleaner. He left school to earn a living before completing his education at night school and then studying law.

He practised as a lawyer until he became Lower Saxony's prime minister in 1990. He joined the Social Democrats in 1993 and in 1997 became leader of the Jusos, the party's youth wing, enjoying what turned out to be a false reputation as a radical firebrand.

After entering the Bonn parliament in 1980, he pounded on the gates of the federal chancellery, shouting: "I want in there."

Aitken gets job as arms salesman

David Pallister

BRITAIN'S largest defence contractor, GEC-Marconi, confirmed yesterday that it has hired Jonathan Aitken, the disgraced former Tory minister, to help it sell weapons to the Middle East.

The company refused to expand on the terms of Mr Aitken's contract or to elaborate on which weapon systems and markets it was targeting. But it was widely assumed among defence experts that the former MP, aged 55, had been taken on for his close contacts with the Saudi royal family, which has been a source of his wealth since the late 1970s.

He has had a long-standing relationship with GEC and its former managing director, Lord Westminster, helping to secure civil engineering contracts with the usual commissions paid to senior members of the Saudi royal family.

His pay is likely to be based on the success he brings GEC in the competitive Middle East defence market. Commissions of 15 per cent and

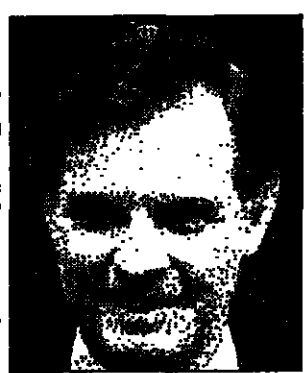
more on deals worth millions of pounds are not uncommon.

Mr Aitken's job will provide him with his first confirmed income since his libel case against the Guardian and Granada's World in Action collapsed spectacularly in June, after evidence was produced that he and his family and friends had lied to the court.

He was then faced with a legal bill of around £2 million which has yet to be settled. Scotland Yard is shortly to present a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether he should be prosecuted for perjury.

Detectives have travelled to Paris and Switzerland to collect evidence about how his bill at the Paris Ritz hotel in September 1993 — the centre of the libel action — was actually paid by Prince Mohammed bin Fahd, the son of the Saudi king and Mr Aitken's benefactor for more than 20 years.

Although the extent of Mr Aitken's fortune remains a mystery, it was assumed that he would have to sell his grand Westminster house. However, he and his children still live there.



Jonathan Aitken: disgraced ex-MP 'hired for Saudi ties'

Any sales from GEC to the kingdom are likely to be brought under the umbrella of the Al Yamamah defence deal for the supply of military aircraft, ships and training. First negotiated by Baroness Thatcher in 1985, this is estimated to be worth £20 billion, or £2 billion a year, to British Aerospace, which acts as the prime contractor.

Successive government ministers have insisted that this is a government-to-government contract with no agents and no commissions but evidence has seeped out in recent years that Saudi princes and their associates have enriched themselves enormously in the trade.

Mr Aitken is credited with helping to secure a £5 billion tranche of Al Yamamah in 1993 when as minister of defence procurement he persuaded King Fahd to buy 48 more Tornado fighter-bomber planes.

His surprise appointment to that job in John Major's 1992 administration, after 18 years on the back benches, was widely believed to be because of his Saudi contacts.

Dirty arms deals, page 8

De Niro dropped by Vatican from reading Pope's poetry on CD

Dan Gialster Arts Correspondent

HE PLAYED a priest in True Confessions and the devil in Angel Heart, but these blasphemous associations did not stop the Vatican approaching Robert De Niro to ask him to contribute to a CD recording of the poems of Pope John Paul II.

Now the invitation has been withdrawn. The actor's

sin? Being in the wrong place at the wrong time, De Niro's interrogation by a French judge about his possible connection with a high-class international call-girl ring has led the Vatican to drop him from the planned CD.

Father Giuseppe Moscati, who is co-ordinating the project for Edizioni Musicali Terzo Millennio, said: "In view of the news, De Niro's participation no longer seems such a good idea. These are

poems written by the Pope, after all, and it appears that the image we had of De Niro when we made the proposal is far from the truth."

Other actors approached include Gregory Peck and Dustin Hoffman. Gérard Depardieu has been asked to record a French version.

The American CD follows a recording of the Pope's poems released in Italy last year, which sold 30,000 copies. A second Italian recording will

be released at Easter, with a third planned, possibly using the voice of Sophia Loren.

The Pope's excursion into the CD market comes after a stage appearance with Bob Dylan last year.

The snub to De Niro, who has forcefully denied any involvement with the prostitution ring, comes after he said he would hand back his Légion d'honneur medal awarded to him at last year's Cannes film festival.

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Fidelio transcends its irritations

Review

Andrew Clements

Fidelio, Lucio Silla
English Touring Opera/
Opera for Europe

TAKING opera to those parts that its grander counterparts can't reach, English Touring Opera is on the road until the end of May with a revival of Fidelio and a new staging of Fidelio.

Robert Chevara's first as director of productions.

The tour started in Cambridge and ranges from Preston and Ulverston in the north

to Exeter and Truro in the south. As both London's main houses have demonstrated all too clearly, Beethoven's only opera is hard to get right, and it is bold of ETO to take Fidelio on, especially with limited forces – an orchestra pared to the minimum, a chorus of 11 and just seven prisoners for the famous first-act set piece.

But Chevara's production – in distressed grey sets and Goya-esque images by Es Devlin – puts the bone structure of the drama in place, even if that is all too often covered in unnecessary details and obvious point-making.

The directorial cliché of Leonore disguising herself as Fidelio on stage during the

overture is trotted out once again. Florestan's aria puts flesh on the vision of his wife by having her glide past when all attention should be focused on him, and the final, transcendent chorus is cluttered with portraits of political prisoners, as if the audience can't be trusted to work out the message for itself.

But somehow the emotional force of the piece survives these irritations, due in large part to Andrew Greenwood's conducting, which brings a grand sweep to each act, and to raring Florestan and Susan Stacey's penetrating, focused Leonore. There's good support, too, from Denise Mulholland (Marzelline) and Jeffrey

Lloyd-Roberts (Jacquino). Certainly the honest seriousness of this Fidelio is far better than the wilful inconsequence of Lucio Silla, which came to the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, last week. This is the first offering from Opera for Europe, the touring showcase of the Manchester-based European Opera Centre.

As the vocal mastery of the cruelly demanding roles in Mozart's early opera seria demonstrated, the organisation has achieved its aim of bringing together promising young singers for intensive training. But the gratuitous nonsense served up in Brigitte Fassbaender's production revealed nothing except a lack of faith in the music.



For those able to read the runes of the Murdoch empire the key words were "negative aspects": they confirmed that the great media mogul's fingerprints were all over the decision to dump Chris Patten's memoirs - and that he had made his views known to his minions in a typically robust manner. Andrew Neil writes on Rupert the Fear

New clothing lore for female solicitors



Daniela Nardini, who played the solicitor Anna in TV's hit series *This Life*, and boosted the legal profession's image

Innocent

- Look professional but not fashionable
- Always wear make-up — but not too much
- Wear co-ordinated colours and styles
- Wear elegant shoes
- Use quality accessories
- Be well-groomed
- Wear matching skirt suits. Waistcoats are acceptable
- Wear neutral, non-tweed or wool fabrics
- Trouser suits are acceptable

Suspicious

- Open necks or bare legs
- Perfume
- Distractions such as dangly jewellery or flowing hair
- Anything revealing
- Cardigans
- Double pierced ears
- Dark hair roots
- Mobile phones — seen or heard

If you want to get ahead then get a suit, women lawyers told

Guidelines emphasise neatness over fashion, reports CLARE LONGRIGG

WHEN Marcia Clark was prosecuting OJ Simpson in front of the world's TV cameras, her appearance looked over-the-top. Loud, colourful jewellery and plunging necklines were considered unsuitable; a mini-skirt could damage a woman lawyer's credibility. Flat shoes and cardigans are out, elegant heels and trousers are in. Big hair must go.

Organisers of a solicitors' exhibition which opens today at the Birmingham NEC claim women are held back from promotion within legal firms because of the way they look.

The number of women entering the profession has tripled in recent years, but this is not reflected in the number becoming partners.

In response to these concerns, the solicitors' exhibition engaged image consultants to offer a little sartorial advice to ease their way.

Guidelines for female solicitors have been issued, emphasising a neat, businesslike look over fashion considerations. Loud, colourful jewellery and plunging necklines are considered unsuitable; a mini-skirt could damage a woman lawyer's credibility. Flat shoes and cardigans are out, elegant heels and trousers are in. Big hair must go.

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Hair: Keep it short or long. No tell-tale dark roots.

Earrings: Large pearls always go down well with judges. No multiple piercings — and that goes for noses/eyebrows

Kray parole hearing near

Former gangster 'represents minimum risk'

Reginald Kray, the former gangster, is set to have a parole hearing in the next few days. The hearing will be held at the Prison Service's Parole Board in London. Kray, who was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his brother, Ronnie, in 1966, is currently serving his sentence at HM Prison, Wakefield.

The Parole Board will consider whether Kray should be released on licence. The board will be made up of three members, including a judge, a police officer, and a probation officer. Kray's lawyers will be present to represent him.

Kray's brother, Ronnie, was shot dead in a London street in 1966. Kray was charged with the murder and sentenced to life in prison. He has since been granted several periods of temporary release, but has always returned to prison.

The Parole Board will also consider whether Kray should be released on licence. The board will be made up of three members, including a judge, a police officer, and a probation officer. Kray's lawyers will be present to represent him.



Reg Kray could be released as early as May

note with extreme concern comments regarding my client's imminent parole board hearing... attributed to an unnamed spokesman for the Prison Service.

A spokesman had been quoted as saying that life sentence prisoners are only ever released from open prisons. Kray is still in a category C prison, Wakefield in Norfolk — one stage higher.

Yesterday Mr Linn said it was not the case that life prisoners were released only from open prisons.

"I know of a number of life sentence prisoners released from category C and even category B jails," he said.

"There is no reason why Reg could not be released."

Yesterday a Prison Service spokesman said it did not comment on individual cases.

While the possibility of parole for the moors murderer, Myra Hindley, still faces strong hostility with the public and most of the media, the parole of Kray is seen as a much less contentious issue.

One of the detectives who helped to lead him, Leonard "Nipper" Read, now retired, said: "He has done the length of time that the court felt was right. I see no objection to him being released."

Diana's bodyguard regaining memory

Kamal Ahmed, Media Correspondent

THE only survivor of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed, has said he can now remember some details of the accident.

Rees-Jones, the bodyguard who was driving the car which crashed in Paris on August 31, said he was "beginning to remember" the events of the night.

A meeting has been arranged with the French judge investigating Diana's death. The revelations, in a Sunday Mirror newspaper, immediately plunged the death into fresh controversy.

Mohamed Ali Rees-Jones, 30, was a former bodyguard for the Queen. He was dismissed from his post in 1995 after a series of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Rees-Jones, who was charged with the death of the princess's bodyguard, said he was "beginning to remember" the events of the night.

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Mohamed Ali Rees-Jones, 30, was a former bodyguard for the Queen. He was dismissed from his post in 1995 after a series of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family have made clear that the glut of articles raising questions about the princess's death has been hurtful.

Speaking before the Mirror interview had been published, Michael Gibbins, the princess's former private secretary, said: "I think the expectation must be that it is helpful, and that it is a step towards the truth."

Rees-Jones said he was "beginning to remember" the events of the night.

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Mohamed Ali Rees-Jones, 30, was a former bodyguard for the Queen. He was dismissed from his post in 1995 after a series of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Mr Morgan said Mr Rees-Jones wanted to stress that he had not made any financial gain from Diana's death.

"I am happy to confirm that," he said.

In previous meetings with the Rees-Jones, who was badly injured, has only been able to remember the vaguest details of the accident, and doctors said his memory was unlikely to return.

But after a series of interviews with a psychiatrist, he has been able to recall further elements of the events which led up to the crash.

"I have given three interviews to the press," Mr Rees-Jones said. "I remember very little of the final journey on August 31. In my interviews with the psychiatrist I have remembered a little more. I am therefore having a further meeting with the judge to tell him what I remember."

Rock star Phil Collins has claimed there is a "bedding frenzy" over the death of Diana. He said he did not want to become part of it and had declined to perform at the £30,000-a-head charity concert celebrating her life this summer.

March panics ministers

continued from page 1

programmes "that will still 'won't get off the ground' book".

In a clear attempt to make peace with the opposition, the government has agreed to consider "the issue of the blood tax" and "the issue of the blood tax".

Mr Foster, whose bill will be debated again on Friday, said last night: "I could not endorse a compromise. If a compromise was on the cards, it would have happened 20 years ago. Licensing hunting would be totally endorsing it. I could not accept that position."

Attempts to defuse the

hunting row came at the end of a week of U-turns and concessions to the countryside lobby, despite some ministers and many backbenchers regarding it as a Tory trick for bloodsports, and accusations of panic.

In just seven days, the Government has backtracked on greenfield development, signed its position on the right to roam, extended consultation on banning unlicensed milk, found new money for beef farmers, eased the financial pressure on village shops, promised to delay village school closures and held out the prospect of action on rural traffic.

It was confirmed yesterday that Cabinet-level negotiations are under way over transforming the Ministry of Agriculture into a Rural Affairs Department. Downing

Street strongly denied it was a response to the march.

As the protesters set off through central London, Lord Donoughue, an agriculture parliamentary secretary, said: "We must have a voice in Cabinet which would be the central focus for all matters affecting the countryside."

Insiders say a whole new department is some years away, but the ministry is hoping to increase its environmental responsibilities as the purpose of farm subsidies shifts from income support to green issues.

Tomorrow a cross-party group of MPs, including Labour's Kate Hoey and Peter Luff, the Conservative chairman of the agriculture select committee, will launch a campaign for a system of regulation for hunting.

Study finds Brown plan for tax credits can leave poor families worse off

David Brindle and Anne Perkins

GORDON Brown's plans to transform the prospects of poorer families by guaranteeing incomes to them out of the poverty trap come under attack today in a study which says they could discourage people from working.

In a further blow to the Government's plans to pres-

ent welfare reform in a positive light, the International survey by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation says Working Families Tax Credits have at best a "marginal" benefit for the first time in the history of the first stage of welfare reform.

The Chancellor believes the system of topping up low incomes through the tax system rather than benefits will end the so-called "poverty trap", which leaves people caught between low-paid work with less cash in their pockets.

The Working Families Tax Credit, introduced in 1996, is the first time in the history of the first stage of welfare reform.

The Chancellor believes the system of topping up low incomes through the tax system rather than benefits will end the so-called "poverty trap", which leaves people caught between low-paid work with less cash in their pockets.

a high incidence of fraud. The research concludes that there remains a strong case for sticking with family credit — the top-up for low-income households — that would be replaced by a tax credit.

Donald Hirsch, Joseph Rowntree Foundation adviser, said: "The unforeseen problems with tax credits in other countries, including work disincentives and fraud,

make it vital that the proposed British system is carefully designed and its operation closely monitored."

In a separate report, the Child Poverty Action Group today calls for lone parents to have a real choice between going out to work and staying at home to care for their children.

Tax credit has its limit, page 11

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It's good to be

Rural lobby raises its angry voice

Landowning interests have forced politicians to listen to them. **Luke Harding** reports



Shanks' pony... Hunters got off their mounts and on their high horses, pounding London's streets to tell townies to tread carefully. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

THE affluent rural lobby re-emerged as a major force in British politics yesterday after about 250,000 people joined the march in central London to protest against government policies on the countryside.

In the largest demonstration since the CND rallies of the early 80s, marchers descended on the capital to vent their spleen over ministerial handling of rural issues including foxhunting, farming, and the right to roam. It now seems unlikely that Tony Blair will attempt to tackle the pro-hunting lobby head-on during this Parliament.

Organisers claimed the demonstration had woken politicians to the strength of feeling over countryside issues. The small number of anti-hunt protesters who picketed the march claimed most people — including a majority in the countryside — still favoured a ban on foxhunting.

The Government seemed deeply divided, with Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, taking part on behalf of the Government while Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, stayed away. It faces further discomfiture next week when Labour backbenchers will try to keep alive Mike Foster's doomed private members bill to ban foxhunting.

Scotland Yard said the demonstration passed off peacefully with only seven arrests. The Countryside Alliance would have claimed 384,500 marchers on the route. The police estimated that a quarter of a million had turned up. An alliance spokesman, Paul Latham, said: "It shows that the rural lobby is alive and a force in politics. In the build-up to the march, there have been a number of decisions taken that the countryside would welcome. I'm sure we will see more such decisions."

Most of the shadow cabinet, led by William Hague, was there. Paddy Ashdown, and the former Liberal leader, David Steel, represented the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Ashdown renewed his call for a Royal Commission to re-examine foxhunting, and accused the Conservatives of using the rally to try to rebuild their "shattered

The Journey: 'A few were given tickets because their pay is so low'

Peter Hetherington

HEADING south by train, the unemployed and the Old Etonian huntsman ignored the class divide. Bob Richardson, from the old mining village of Backworth on Tyneside, sends his dogs down the fox hole to flush out what he calls "vermin". Then he pops them off with a stun gun. "There's no more humane way," he says proudly. "I like all field sports —

shooting, the lot. Labour is out to get at us, but we've got Blair and those idiots on the run. They're making all kinds of concessions."

Charles Renwick, former army officer and doyen of Northumberland's Morpeth Hunt — "Out as often as I can" — likes to lead from the front. "What's all the fuss?" he asks. Hounds may tear a fox to bits after its neck has been broken, but really it's just the equivalent of filleting a fish — "the kind of thing Michael Foster does after a day's

fishing" referring to the pro-angling Labour MP whose anti-hunting bill gets its second reading this week. "The problem is, all these critics in the town don't understand us."

The marchers crammed onto the train from the snows of Newcastle soon after dawn, slithering into town from the Pennines, Cheviots and beyond. Toffs like Charles Renwick, keepers in their deerstalkers, whipper men sporting baseball caps, the great mass of the countryside in flat caps, and a few jobless men like Bob Richardson with no headgear.

We had been assured by the organisers, the Countryside Alliance, that they were all gathering for an epic 600-mile round trip to save the shires from the urban masses and an uncaring Government bent on undermining every aspect of rural life. But, in truth, most were there to preserve

the right to hunt with hounds and pursue their own version of a "freedom to roam".

Robert McCarthy, a full-time worker with the Duke of Northumberland's prestigious Percy Hunt, was resplendent in his tweeds and cap, and he was angry. "I wouldn't go into town and tell them how to run their business, trample on their gardens — so why are they doing it to us?"

Although the duke had paid for Mr McCarthy's £27 ticket, Mr McCarthy insisted most people were paying their way.

Vicki Knox had organised the train, a huntswoman and a tenant of the duke. She was scornful of those who accused the gentry of bankrolling the event and exerting pressure on tenants and estate workers. "Rubbish," she said. "People have bought their own tickets in the main, but a few were given them

because their wages are so low."

She was staggered by the size of the flat-capped army. "I'm a bit of a left-winger, never voted Conservative, and I never thought I'd see this happen in this country — calm, non-militant people taking to the streets because they'd had enough."

But enough of what? All manner of grievances came to the surface during a four hour journey, from the contentious "freedom to roam" proposals — now put on ice — to failure to support agriculture while banning beef on the bone.

"We're fed up with these town people coming into our fields and telling us how to run things," said a farmer's wife. "We're trying to protect our way of life... we're on the breadline. Nobody cares for us. If a miner or a steelworker loses his job, he's given help. Who gives us help?"

Actually the Government does, with substantial subsidies. "Don't give us that stuff, we work bloody hard!"

Some, like Rodney Britton, a farrier, had never been to London — "Don't like cities." His father John, founder of the family firm, says they'll lose half their business if hunting is banned. "People in the towns have this image of the fox as a nice furry animal, but they're vermin, everyone in the country knows that. Last year I lost 15 hens."

A few on the train are equivocal. When one protester gently rebukes his partner for suggesting that not everyone on the march is in favour of hunting, she replies: "Well, let's face it, quite a few farmers are opposed because they don't like the hunt rampaging over their land and they ban them — but keep quiet about that today."

The MP: 'I can think of lots of better ways of spending a Sunday'

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

"THE Labour Party has traditionally neglected rural areas because we bought the Tory propaganda that said this was their territory."

Peter Bradley is one of the new breed of Labour MPs who ousted more than 100 Tories from the shires. He won The Wrekin, a constituency in the heart of rural England.

"I think the Government is only just beginning to realise how strong we are in the countryside. It's true, our roots are urban and industrial. But now we have critical mass in rural communities, and it's time to deliver on the one-nation promise."

Mr Bradley has in the past week found himself a person of some importance: he chairs Labour's backbench rural affairs group of 75 MPs. Last May the party won 160 rural seats, more than the Conservatives, and is now the party of the shires — numerically, at least.

Last Friday, Mr Bradley found himself called upon to hold a press conference to back the party's line on the countryside. "The rural agenda," he says confidently, "is largely the same as in the town. Health, schools, employment. The single biggest issue is transport."

"The agenda's the same, but there are different solutions."

To the rural sceptic, his message is undermined by his past. He is a public relations man, born in Birmingham, 10 years a Westminster city councillor, a man whose formative rural experience was the green-grass campus of Sussex University. But he's trying to learn.



Peter Bradley, MP for The Wrekin. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

"I went hunting the other day," he said. "In a Range Rover with two delightful country gentlemen. They took me round the lanes."

"We barely saw a red coat, let alone a fox. I could do that any Saturday or Sunday I had time. You can enjoy the countryside without chasing foxes."

Not that he was joining yesterday's march.

"I can think of lots of better ways of spending a Sunday. But you have to take people seriously if they think they have a grievance."

In the Bradley analysis, the real rural malaise is neglect. "On the knocker, the well-known fact is that the people pronouncing the Countryside Alliance. Those I meet are delighted to see the Labour Party in their village."

Most of them haven't seen an MP at all.

And what about hunting? "The Countryside Alliance has used it to hijack that rural agenda. It's deeply divisive — the way it suggests that townies are townies and country people are country people, and never the twain shall meet. But they've got it one central theme and they've tacked on lots of others. Frankly it's the old feudal divide and rule mentality."

Tony Blair does not seem to agree. In the eyes of some of his backbenchers, he appears to have taken a feudal attitude himself, ignoring his party's sensitivities to make concessions to the landed gentry.

One Tory MP said last week: "It's great, we're getting a retreat a day at the moment." He added: "Of course, John Major showed us that if people think you're retreating under pressure you get no political credit."

Mr Bradley denies that the countryside has somehow got Mr Blair on the run. "The trouble is if you do nothing, you're inflexible; and if you listen and respond, somehow you're weak and vacillating."

He is among 55 Labour MPs backing calls for a new Department of Rural Affairs, an idea with support at the Ministry of Agriculture and also backed by some Tories.

In his constituency, he has a plan to get the train company, the local authority and the Rural Development Commission to work together to provide bus services linking villages, schools and railway stations.

But he thinks the "countryside" needs to come to terms with the real world. "They need to understand that they can't expect to be a special case."

"After all, they didn't stand up for the miners, did they?"

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party. "One of the things that makes me angry is their rank hypocrisy on the countryside, as if all the problems began on May 1. These are issues which are deep-seated and complex and have been going on for two decades."

Michael Yardley of the Sportsman's Association, accused the Conservatives of hijacking the event. "A lot of people have jumped on this bandwagon comparatively recently."

More than 2,000 coaches and 29 special trains made their way to London for the protest. The march began at 10.20 and tens of thousands of people snaked their way slowly up from the north bank of the Thames through Trafalgar Square to the finish point at Hyde Park.

It took five hours for all of the marchers to set off. Most were gently dressed, in Barbour jackets or green tweeds, and many carried pro-hunting banners.

Julia Long, an animal rights activist who turned up to picket the event, complained that the march had been "taken over" by the pro-hunting lobby. "I don't know

with an Olympic torch. He was followed by a group of hunters wearing scarlet jackets and carrying hunting horns, and by a brass band and bagpipers. Mr Meade said there was "tremendous opposition" to Mike Foster's private members' bill and he had invited Michael Meacher to go hunting with him after meeting him in the gents at the Savoy, where marchers began the day with breakfast. "I'm delighted Michael Meacher has decided to take part. I hope he learns something about the countryside."

Asked about the right of ramblers to roam over private land, he replied: "What one doesn't want is the countryside to be over-run. It would lose its essence."

Anne Johnson, one of a handful of freelance anti-hunt demonstrators at Trafalgar Square, said she was disgusted by the march. "We want to bring this country into the next century where the killing of wild animals will not be carried out by sadists like these."

At the front of the march were representatives of rural professions who consider themselves threatened by anti-hunting legislation. Brian Webber, a farrier from Cornwall who attended last year's Countryside Rally in Hyde Park, said a ban on hunting would hurt his local Chinese take-away, where he went once a week because his income would fall. "I'm here to protect my future interests. I'm here to try and get the Government to listen to us instead of dictating to us. I would just like to leave some countryside behind for my grandchildren." The BSE crisis was "bloody crippling us".

David Davies, a professional huntsman and former plumber who had travelled from mid-Wales, said that he had more respect for the fox than any conservationist. "I love the fox. My message to the people of London is why should they interfere with our way of life?"

Mr Davies complained that he had slept badly the night before the march in a London hotel. "I'm used to the peace of the countryside. There were cars flying past my window."

Leader comment and letters, page 9

Clashes between hunt saboteurs and demonstrators failed to materialise

If there are any genuinely hard-up people there at all. They all look pretty prosperous to me.

"I feel it is very arrogant of these people to come up from the country. They want us to subsidise their bad farming methods. They want to carry on hunting, which the majority of people don't want. And they don't want us on their land. They want everything their own way."

The Countryside Alliance, which is pro-hunting, rejected the charge that blood sports enthusiasts had hijacked the march. "The anti-hunting Bill was the primary reason the march was organised. It makes no sense to say a march we have organised ourselves has been hijacked by pro-hunters."

The showjumper, Richard Meade, led the procession



This land is our land... Demonstrators fill a London street in the biggest protest march since the days of CND in the 1980s

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA PEARCE

The issues: 'grand coalition' conceals fight against hunt ban

formally remained neutral on the bill and refused to give it extra time, despite the 411-151 vote in favour during its second reading. But there is still uncertainty over Tony Blair's longer-term intentions.

Clever tactics by the bill's supporters may ensure that it stays on the agenda by going to the Lords. The likelihood is, though, that wrecking tactics by Conservative MPs will ensure it fails.

The Countryside Alliance openly describes itself as a

pro-hunting body, and is a subsidiary of the British Field Sports Society.

In a symbolic move, red-coated huntsmen were invited to walk at the front of the march. Faced with such a robust display of shire will, it is unlikely that Tony Blair will risk a head-on confrontation with the pro-hunting lobby later in this parliament. If this is the case, then the marchers have won the argument.

The alliance is also dissatisfied with the Government's handling of several other rural issues:

- The right to roam. The alliance is worried about the threat of statutory action by the Government to give people the right to roam over private land. Landowners have been given three months to come up with a voluntary code.
- Farmers claim walkers will force them to introduce expensive insurance and may damage crops. Ramblers groups dismiss this as 'absolute rubbish'.
- Threats to the livestock industry from the effects of the BSE crisis, the strong pound and cheap imports. The National Farmers Union says thousands of livestock farmers still face enormous problems caused by the current beef ban.
- The green belt. The alliance welcomed last year's announcement by deputy Prime Minister John Prescott that 60 per cent of future development should be built on brownfield sites, but it wants the figure to be higher and claims countryside areas are still threatened by large housing developments.
- Rural infrastructure. The countryside is in danger of losing essential rural services such as transport, schools, hospitals and village shops, the alliance claims.
- The handgun ban. In the wake of the Dunblane massacre, it is still deeply unpopular.
- Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Wanted by the alliance, which says all change must be regulated carefully.

Tories at the head of march

The government turned out in force for yesterday's Countryside March, the last government, that is, under John Major.

William Hague led the Conservative Party's Westminster delegation.

Other members of the Major regime who made an appearance included Michael Howard, Sir Bryan Mervyn, Sir Norman Fowler, Peter Lilley, Gillian Shephard and Michael Ancram.

Sir George Young brought his wife.

It was made clear he was not wanted.

Michael Meacher, the Agriculture Minister, and his colleague, Lord Donoughue, did come but kept a low profile. They were joined by the pro-hunting Labour peer, Baroness Mallett.

The Liberal Democrats were represented by Paddy Ashdown, the former Liberal leader, David Steel, and Charles Kennedy MP.

They marched in a solitary line, having been gently ushered back behind a lead group of huntsmen.

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March FM: You could hear the duke's millions in the jingles alone

THEY could hardly have called the one-day radio station supporting yesterday's pro-hunting rally Blood FM, so March FM - a name both resolute and neutral - had to do.

All the conventions of the old 1970s and 1980s demos were there: the organisers' estimates of half a million marchers (though one waited in vain for a police counter-estimate of 50,000), Peregrine Worsthorne declaring "we shall overcome", and actor Anthony Andrews talking of protecting the environment.

But soon the station's distinctiveness became apparent. There was the slickness that one-day RSLs (restricted service licences) almost never display. You could hear the Duke of Westminster's millions in the jingles alone.

"The Countryside March's own radio station, a very special day of the way."

There were the 22.50 p.p.s. radio sets which, the station said, could be bought along the roadside. There were the plentiful interviews on how to deal with the media (one with BBC northern correspondent, indicating that the press constituency gets things wrong in a hurry).

And there were the advertisements - for the National Farmers Union, or for the British Equestrian Trades Association - that you never hear on Virgin or Classic FM.

Most bizarre was the music. Spice Girls aside, most of it was rousing marches - Land of Hope and Glory, Sousa's Dambusters theme, Rule Britannia - creating a weird affinity between a pro-Blood sports rally and the Last Night of the Proms, and seeming to suggest that you can only be truly British if you live in the countryside and like to kill animals.

The medley included I Vow to Thee My Country, now indelibly celebrated as Diana, Princess of Wales's favourite hymn - though she loathed the countryside and wasn't too partial to hunting.

With the interviews all applauding the march's aims, and not a single note of dissent, the station conjured up an Eastern bloc station, a sort of Pravda FM.

What's extraordinary is how the licence was given. I can't recall such an explicitly partisan RSL before. Imagine how the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament would have relished a one-day station, a Peace FM, alongside its early 1980s demos.

On March 29 there will be a large march in London calling for the decriminalisation of canals. Can we look forward to Joint FM?

Mainstream advertisers have taken a while to get turned on to the idea that they could use black male models without necessarily losing sales or alienating their audience.

Modelling racism

page 8

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Berisha denies role in unrest

Karen Coleman in Tirana

THE former Albanian president Sali Berisha dismissed accusations yesterday of instigating trouble in the country a year after its descent into chaos following the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

Mr Berisha has been accused of orchestrating instability in the past four weeks in an effort to topple the government and regain control.

The former president said the accusations by his opponents were false. "We strongly condemn any violent gesture, any terrorist gesture, and there will be no support from the Democratic Party for that," he said.

The prime minister, Fatos Nano, who was elected last year, has claimed the former president and his Democratic Party were behind the takeover of the northern town of Shkoder on February 22.

After a Berisha rally, armed gangs took control of the police station and released prisoners. They rampaged through Shkoder, looting and damaging buildings and setting fire to the library and university. They raided two banks, stealing money from safes.

Special forces regained control the following day. Some residents felt their town was being used as a political football by those interested in fomenting instability.

"I think this was pre-planned because how can 15 people take over the whole town?" said Spatin Sima,

who sells clothes at a dusty roadside in Shkoder.

"This is a political game, one party blames the other, which in turn blames its opponent. But the ordinary people are the ones who are suffering," Fatmir Lush, a construction worker, said.

The Shkoder events sparked memories of last year's chaos, when much of the country was in the hands of outlaws who looted shops, businesses and arms depots. Violence erupted after thousands lost their savings in pyramid investment schemes.

On March 3 1997 a state of emergency was declared. In April Italian troops were brought in to restore order. Elections in June resulted in President Berisha being ousted and a coalition government led by Mr Nano.

Now Mr Berisha, who was on the point of fleeing Albania last year, is trying to make a comeback. His party has held rallies in the capital, Tirana, amid calls for fresh elections. They accuse Mr Nano of reneging on promises to compensate those who lost their savings.

Mr Berisha is demanding the formation of a "technical government" of intellectuals and independents, a guise, analysts believe, for his own return to power. His chances are helped by the poor performance of the Nano regime.

Fatos Lubonja, a writer jailed under the communists, said: "It's a government made up of people who are without charisma. This has created a situation where Berisha is trying to destabilise the country."

Kosovo Albanians appeal to West after clashes with Serbian police

SERBIAN police swept through ethnic Albanian villages in Kosovo province yesterday as the Albanians' leader, Ibrahim Rugova, appealed to the West to stop police violence a day after clashes left at least seven people dead.

Mr Rugova appealed to the United States and the

European Union, saying "urgent measures" were needed to prevent Serbian attacks aimed at "instigating and causing panic" among the ethnic Albanian majority.

The US appealed for general restraint, but stopped short of condemning the Serbian authorities. — AP.

Olive workers pick jobs fight

Adela Gooch in Jaén

ACARD loosely tied around Manuel Rodríguez's neck, he said: "If my owner loses his job, I'll go to the knacker's."

Mr Rodríguez and the donkey were marching, with 100,000 others in Andalucía at the weekend to denounce European Union plans for reform of the olive industry which could threaten many jobs in one of the poorest parts of Spain.

Mr Rodríguez is at the bottom of the heap. A casual labourer travelling from estate to estate, he is, say the unions, one of those who will suffer most from reform.

Unemployment in Spain, at 20 per cent, is the highest in the EU. In Jaén, where 85 per cent of the economy depends on olives, one in three of the labour force is unemployed. In other parts of Andalucía the rate is almost double the national average.

"We're going to shut down Brussels and Europe," said Amador Gámez, clutching a large olive branch from a tree on his estate as he marched with 50,000 people in Jaén, scene of the largest demonstration.

The olive issue has turned the agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, into a national bogeyman. "Fischler we're against vasectomy," read a banner. "We want to stay productive."

Mr Fischler argues that the EU must curb subsidies, cut fraud and keep production down to prevent an olive lake. He is considering limiting production and allocating subsidies according to the number of trees rather than the amount of oil produced.

Spain, the world's top producer, says the plan would be unfair because its trees yield more than those of other countries, and because consumption is increasing and should be encouraged on health grounds.

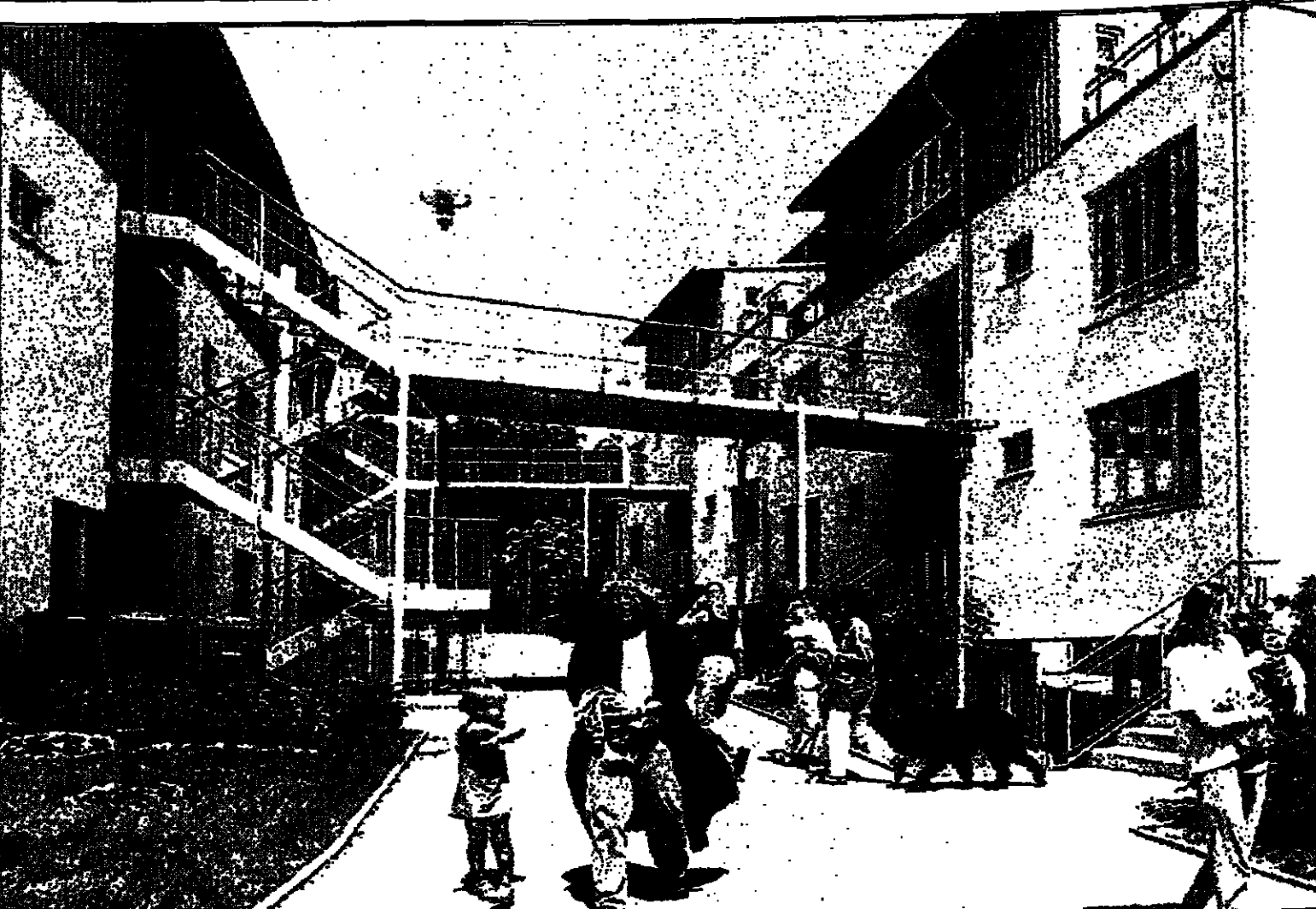
There is an environmental factor too. The olive is one of the few crops to withstand the country's regular droughts. As for fraud, Spaniards say the Italians are the worst culprits. Italy buys a lot of Spanish oil to bottle it under domestic labels.

The protesters fear a sell-off because the government is involved in a broader battle to ensure enlargement does not eat into Spain's EU funds.

Worried at the strength of feeling, the agriculture minister, Loyola de Palacio, declined an invitation to Jaén but called a press conference to say the EU commissioner was "rethinking the tree system and considering extending subsidies to eating olives".

The campaigners were not convinced. At another march, in Córdoba, Andalucía's culture minister said: "This is about more than the olive. It's about our national identity, our way of life."

Design for living



Traffic-free safety in Europe's biggest housing estate designed by women
PHOTOGRAPH: M. VOLLMER

Kate Connolly visits a Viennese housing estate designed by four female architects to embody the principles of ease and convenience established by the woman who invented the modern fitted kitchen

Making light of women's work

DANIEL is poking his index finger into a low "child-friendly" keyhole.

Doris Heichenwaller pulls her two-year-old son away before he can do any damage.

"On a few occasions he has got his foot stuck down the side of the balcony," she complains. But apart from the perennial problem of how to keep a child out of mischief, Europe's largest housing estate designed by women for women answers many of her prayers.

"There are no dark corners or corridors, or curbs to tackle with a pram, and there's even a doctor's surgery and acupuncture here," says Ms Heichenwaller, who moved into the ground-floor flat at 119 Donauefeld Street in north-east Vienna in mid-November.

The estate, which contains 359 apartments, also has meeting halls, flats for the disabled, and a total ban on cars. There is a police station, a kindergarten, a nursery and shops.

Five years ago four female architects won a Vienna city council competi-



An abundance of windows, winter gardens, glass roofs and short walkways characterise the design of an estate that combines functionality with space and security
PHOTOGRAPH: KATE CONNOLLY

tion to design the six-acre Frauenwerkstadt (women's work town) in the district of Floridsdorf.

The result is a tall, white and grey, open-spaced housing estate with an abundance of windows, winter gardens, glass roofs and short walkways, com-

bining functionality with space and security.

"The everyday lives of men and women differ substantially," said the chief architect, Franziska Ullman. "Working men leave the house early in the morning and are gone until evening so only tend to judge a living area for its

worth as a leisure space.

"But for a lot of women shopping, cooking and looking after kids is the order of the day. For that they require a totally different organisational structure."

The architects have a 101-year-old woman to thank for many of their "modern concepts". Austria's first

female architect, Margaret Schutte-Lihotsky, chaired the jury and oversaw the project from its conception to its realisation. She has devoted her life to improving the living conditions of working women throughout Europe.

"The basic principle in the design of housing should be to enable household tasks to be carried out in a practical and time-saving way," she said.

A tiny red-haired woman, she has been from an early age a self-professed Marxist. In 1919, as a 23-year-old, she experienced post-war Vienna in social ruin.

She joined Vienna's Housing Movement and wrote her first essay: How can we make housework easier by building appropriate apartments?

From there she went on to design the Frankfurt Kitchen — the precursor of the modern fitted kitchen. "I built the prototype of a 1.9 by 3.4 metre kitchen and I measured with a stop watch how long it took me to do certain tasks, and on that I based the final design.

"It has been helping women to save time for years, and I will remember every centimetre of that kitchen until I die."

The kitchens on the housing estate are based on her Frankfurt philosophy. According to the different styles of apartment, they are either large and roomy meeting places or integrated into the living room to avoid the feeling of isolation.

More than half the flats on the estate are now occupied. There are male and female residents, but a much higher than average proportion are single mothers.

Up on a roof terrace with a view over the Danube and the wooded Leopoldsdorf, two mothers are chatting and hanging out their washing to dry.

"If a man was to have planned this he would have put the washing room in the basement," says Brigitte Krusch.

"This would have then been rented out as an exclusive roof-terrace penthouse. But as it is we'll all get the chance to sunbathe up here."

Turkey tries to root out beards

With Islamist MPs cowed, dress codes are the new flashpoint, writes Chris Morris

THE year-long campaign by military leaders against Turkey's first Islamist-led government sparked a chain of events which culminated last week in a constitutional coup against the Welfare party and the reaffirmation of secular rule.

But while Welfare, which was the biggest party in parliament, has been banned for threatening secularism, the issues it raised when in power have not gone away.

Thousands of students have demonstrated repeatedly on the streets of Istanbul in recent days against restrictions imposed by the state on Islamic dress. Although there is some political desire to relax the restrictions, the military remains unmoved.

Istanbul University has temporarily suspended a decree barring students wearing headscarves or sporting beards from the campus, but the students are not satisfied. They have been spraying shaving foam on their faces to show how absurd they consider the attempt to ban beards.

The secularists struck back with a stunt of their own. A helicopter hired by the Post Office dropped thousands of leaflets on an Islamist demonstration, urging people to vote for the founder of the modern secular state, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, in Time magazine's poll to find the most influential person of the century.

The universities are just one of a number of battlegrounds in this cultural conflict. About 300 state school teachers are being investigated for wearing headscarves while giving lessons, and the scarf remains banned in most government offices. Compulsory secular education has been increased to eight years.

As a political movement, the Islamists are already looking to the future. A new party



An Istanbul University student protests against the ban on headscarves

replacing Welfare attracted about 120 MPs this week.

The Fazilet (Virtue) party has been keen to emphasise that it is not a mirror image of Welfare. Its leaders fear that if they cannot promote a different public image, the new party will suffer the same fate as the old one.

It is clear, however, that

Virtue will campaign on similar themes.

"Artificially created issues such as beards and headscarves should be abandoned at a time when Turkey has enough other problems," said Recat Kutun, its parliamentary leader.

Mr Kutun is a close aide of the Welfare leader, Necmettin Erbakan, who has been banned from party politics for five years.

Virtue has made a good start, but splits between Erbakan loyalists and a new generation of Islamist leaders loom in the background.

For the moment attention is focused on the attempt to impose a common dress code. The national security council, which brings together political and military leaders, discussed the issue on Thursday but papered over differences of opinion.

Some politicians, including the prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, think the pressure should be eased.

"Universities should be looking after people's brains, not their clothes," one of his advisers said.

Palermo awakes to its black saint

John Hooper in Rome

AS Italians come to grips with the prospect of a multi-ethnic future, one of their biggest and most diverse cities is discovering it has had a black patron saint for almost 350 years.

On August 24 1652, the town council, or senate, of Palermo voted to make the then uncanonised Benedetto Manassero co-protector of the city. But his cult waned and until very recently he had been all but forgotten on Sicily outside the Palermo parish where his body is preserved as a relic.

On Saturday night, however, theatre-goers in the city flocked to see the first of three works dedicated to St Benedetto the Moor, by the Sicilian playwright Beatrice Monroy.

Rome is to put on a three-week exhibition of paintings by Giuseppe Madaudo, of which the centrepiece is a depiction of the saint. At the

University of Palermo, research has begun on a biography based on the documents used to secure his canonisation in 1807.

The driving force behind the revival is Palermo's left-wing but fervently Roman Catholic mayor, Leoluca Orlando, who discovered in the council's archives that the black saint had once been made the city's co-patron.

"For two years, I have been working to raise his status," he said. "People are afraid of black people coming into Europe. It is very important that the extreme periphery of Europe should have a saint whose skin is black."

Benedetto Manassero was born in San Fraello near Messina — the son of an African slave. He spent most of his life in a monastery where he did menial chores. Yet even before his death in 1589, he was regarded as a saint, able to heal the sick and, though illiterate, resolve the most abstruse theological problems.

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Comment

Rome diary

John Hooper

My godson is in Rome with his parents at the moment. He is 14 years old, half-French and mad about military history. So one of the Italian journalists on the newspaper which hosts the Guardian's bureau suggested I take him to the Museo Napoleonico.

"There's another very interesting collection in the same building which was put together by a great Anglophile," he remarked. Then he added cryptically: "The Romans, of course, never go there." I asked: "Who is this 'great Anglophile'?" And all hell broke loose.

"Don't use the name," two of his colleagues shouted. A third made a sort of keening sound — "No, no, noooo" — while grabbing for his testicles and making a sign with the index and little fingers of one hand raised in the shape of horns. Both are reckoned in Italy to be ways of warding off the evil eye — the dreaded *malocchio*.

I had had my first, albeit indirect, encounter with what the Neapolitans call *jezzatori* — Italians singled out by their compatriots as supposed bringers of bad luck. Some of these unfortunate are alive today.

There is an academic in Rome who, back in 1968, went down to Sicily to spread the revolution. The day after his much-publicised arrival, Rtna erupted. He was straightaway identified as the cause and has ever since had to put up with the knowledge that, whenever people catch sight of him, they are discreetly making the sign of the horns and the men are groping for their balls.

Italians are intensely superstitious. Beneath that thick Catholic crust, there is the exuberantly bubbling magma of pagan belief. Poles suggest one Italian has even consulted a *maggo* (sooth-sayer) at some time. Some magi have TV programmes to themselves on regional stations. Viewers ring in for live interpretation of the auguries, which are normally evaded from cars.

When I had run in persuading my friend to write down the name of the Anglophile, I realized he was rather more than that. Perhaps because of the evil legend surrounding him in his own country, he is better known and more respected in Britain. Mario Praz, whose master-work was *The Romantic Agony*, also became the world's greatest collector of the Empire style and the founder of the history of interior decoration. Yet the centenary of his birth in 1996 went largely unremarked in his native Italy.

The museum which carries his name is, in essence, his apartment as he left it on the day he died. It is a splendid tribute to the idiosyncratic vision of a great aesthete, although there are pieces which are unquestionably weird, like a miniature portrait-sculpture in wax of a screaming man. And it is not hard to see how someone with such a taste for the off-beat might come to be thought fixed.

The truth of the legend seems to be a lot sadder. The lady who showed me up to his apartment said it was because of Praz's minor deformities — a cast one eye and a club foot that made him look distinctly sinister.

"But he turned it to advantage, you know. If there was a particular piece he wanted, it is said he'd hint that it might be as well for the dealer not to tempt fate," she said.

I was the only person in the museum that morning.

"Most of the Italians who come here are either people who know him when he was alive, or people who have read his book, *La Casa della Vita*. The second edition has a section devoted to this apartment at the end," said my escort. "A lot of the men keep their hands deep inside their pockets."

MR AITKEN: THIS MESSLE STARTS AN HOUR BUT BREAKS OFF HALF WAY.

Autism

Country Folk Off...



It wasn't Harman who leaked me the budget. But here is its theme

Polly Toynbee



SO THE Government's fire-fighters are busy hosing down "wild" budget speculation. Well, they would, wouldn't they? The Prime Minister gave his cabinet a wiggling about budget leaks. The anti-Harman fog-horns have been busily belching that it was all her, trying to save her skin. Not so. As ever, chance rather than conspiracy was the order of the day in last week's leaks. But it doesn't much matter who said what to whom, what matters is what will happen.

The Iron Chancellor shook his metal fist on Friday, warning against any "return to soft options in public spending", promising that "we will not sacrifice our spending discipline to anyone's whim or to the whims of the market".

Of course not. No one ever suggested that he intended to breach the Government's rigid two-year vow to stay within Tory spending limits. The speculation has all been about what will happen in 1999, when the spending stranglehold ends, and barring Asian meltdown or other catastrophe, Treasury coffers will be brimming so full that public spending will have dropped to 38 per cent of GDP. When in the dying days of the last government, William Waldegrave suggested in a lecture that the Tories should set themselves a target of reducing expenditure to below 40 per cent, everyone thought he had joined the ravine rightwing tendency, as it would mean unthinkable savage cuts. But so robust have been revenue flows since then, that even with paying back billions of national debt, everyone knows the Treasury will be flush in 1999.

Naturally that frightens those who hold the purse

strings. Once the floodgates are opened, what's to stop a tidal wave of demands, each hard-pressed department with a watertight story of desperate need? Tony Blair sees himself standing there with his finger in the dam as every minister clamours for more. Schools, hospitals, public transport, pensioners, crime and the poor — they all urgently need money. Brown's budget will flag up the post-1999 priorities, allowing us to understand a little more of what this government is really about.

Few doubt that at heart the Chancellor wants a more equal distribution of income (when resources allow, of course). Like most of his Cabinet colleagues, he represents a very big picture. Inside Number 10, the Social Exclusion Unit is pulling together the explosion of working groups in all the key departments, answerable to the prime minister, leading the push from the Cabinet committee on welfare reform. The Unit is focusing on some 3000 worst estates, looking at what works and what doesn't. Bad

housing, bad health, bad schools, bad children, bad parents, high crime, no work, drink and drugs — where do you begin?

Children are at the heart of it — admirable political long-termism, for the rewards may not show up in reduced other problems for years. There are already several different departmental research groups on children. The education department has its own Child-Care Unit, ensuring that the new child care includes high quality education as well — nursery teaching for the youngest, with teachers in home work clubs alongside after-school child minding.

The Number 10 unit has looked closely at American evidence from High Scope, an ongoing, long-term nursery scheme, which suggests that at the age of 30, the most deprived children who had two years of intensive high quality nursery education had far less risk of committing crimes, being unemployed or drawing social security in later life. So the question is which groups of children would benefit most, and how intensive does it have to be? ("Doseage" is the current jargon phrase.)

EXAMINING past schemes, the Unit finds that a little spending thinly has often cost a lot but done no good, while intensive interventions at the right ages are ultimately more effective. And it only works in the long run if parents are brought in too, raising their expectations, increasing their chances of working. One thing always leads to another.

The structure of government is a dull subject, but the Unit will have to pull together all the disparate task forces. For everywhere — the home

office, health, education, social security, social services — Labour ministers are each pursuing their own strong personal interest in the poor. So will the Health Action Zones, Employment Zones and Education Zones be co-terminous, working together? Will they pool jealously guarded budgets? Will local authorities, police and health authorities share money on the ground in these key estates? Only the Unit can make it happen.

There were misleading stories recently that the Unit would send in "hit squads" to the worst estates — but their analysis of what works shows that would be a disaster. Regenerating buildings from the centre is easy, but often expensive. Crime is usually generated by the people in the estates and has to come from within those communities — the "human capital" in the jargon.

How do you find the local activists? The Single Regeneration Budget grants given to small areas have shown how local ownership is the only way — often by-passing obstructive other authorities. Sometimes it's led by people living there, usually women determined to improve their lot. Or it might be an energetic chair of a local authority committee.

Success depends on the local culture in the police, health authority and local government. Crime is usually the starting point for local people, but that quickly leads back to root causes and children. What do you do with vandalising 13 year olds, and how do you stop them getting that way?

That is where the Chancellor's child-care funding will be one key motor for everything else.

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Suppliers secretly handed over 26 per cent 'commissions'

of thousands of jobs. So why should this method of doing business matter? If this is what the Saudis want to do with their money is that not their business? The British taxpayer is not losing out as long as the Saudis or other Middle East states do not

often for doing nothing more than making discreet introductions.

Al Yamamah, extended in 1993 after Aitken negotiated in a Ministerial role with Prince Mohammed in Riyadh, has been putting an estimated £2 billion a year into Britain's defence industry, supporting tens

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Delusions of power

Peter Preston



POWER. There's a lot of it about. Political power. The power of the press. Power to the people. Country power. Woman power. But there are also — from Mel C to Rupert M — the illusions of power. This is the line to test the illusions.

A few months ago, you may recall, the Spice Girls were finished. Everybody said so, therefore it had to be true. They'd sacked their manager and behaved badly on an obscure Spanish TV show. Their new album wasn't breaking any records. Spice World (the upcoming movie) was sure to be a trashy debacle. Middle-aged experts on the record-buying habits of 12-year-olds pontificated about market fickleness. The papers which had fuelled the early hype duly lowered the boom.

But here's a funny thing. The Girls began a new global tour in Dublin last week to universally ecstatic reviews. "Sophistication, polish, force of personality, verve, confidence, perfection" — an avalanche of adulation.

It sounded like a triumph of a comeback against the odds. Nobody, though, paused to point out that the Girls had never been away. The ex-manager hasn't been missed. The revised second album has sold in millions across five continents. The movie rode high for weeks in the American box office top ten. One day the critics will be right: the group will fracture and fade. But yesterday, and the day before, they were horribly wrong. The 12-year-olds raised two fingers to them and the titans of press power retired hurt.

If the media drew a spiced-up message from all this, it was that the media could get lost. Not power, only the illusion, and the self-delusion. Weakness is having to scurry back, covering your tracks. One definition of such weakness, for the moment, belongs with Mr Murdoch.

TO BE sure, the current spat seems to be about overweening, sinister power. Neither his friends nor his enemies have a vested interest in proclaiming anything else. News International is a mighty empire run by a demon king, right? It helps the empire to sing along with that chant. It comforts its competitors to denounce the supreme predator. And indeed — on sporting monopolies, right? — there are many shots in the Murdoch locker.

But there's nothing mighty, nothing demonic, about the HarperCollins debacle. Here's a brutal lesson in the limits of power. He bought a publishing company. The market in big memoir advances to retired politicians, his games. But books aren't newspapers. Before they reach the readers, they have to make it — slowly, with time for argument — through a close-knit world of authors and editors cherishing their own strictly professional preoccupations. Once HarperCollins had signed Chris Patten's opus, sight unseen, there was no reasonable prospect of secretly filleting out the peppy bits which might give the Chinese indignation.

It was a doomed enterprise even to try. Honorable defection was always destined to head forwards. The weakness was not realising as much. But do the watching politicians see any comparison and draw any lessons from this swift humiliation?

If they're keen readers of the Sun, for instance — and they surely are — last week provided a perfect text. The Forthright One has spent nine vituperative months laying into the waste, the folly of the Dome. But now crucial cash and rented a

giant TV pavilion within the pending edifice — and guess what? No prizes. The Sun has effusively turned turtle. Hall to "Mandy Millennium", the wondrous architect of triumph to come. Let's all get behind this plan to put the Great back in Britain.

Who, I wonder, is supposed to take such stuff seriously? The return of the Spice Girls is serious, because it depends on ordinary people doing their thing regardless of what they were told to do. The Patten affair is serious, because Stuart Proffitt took up his job and walked into the open. But Dome conversions, in their crudity, simply make you giggle. Are Sun readers supposed to be too stupid to notice?

The question is serious, too, because of what comes next, what the politicians are truly nervous about. Europe. The figures are in, the die is cast. Economic and monetary union is going ahead, with only Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece sitting on the sidelines. The prophets who said it could never happen have switched to saying that it may have happened too early. By midsummer, British industries will be pricing their advance order books in euros. It's started: it will finish.

But where's the matching campaign of debate and decision to match this simple truth? It coughs, mutters, clears its throat. We'll talk turkey sometime, but not yet. The press is an awful impediment, old boy. The might of Murdoch, the curse of the Sun, lowers on every horizon. Why, even John Major may spill of a few beans there in his (HarperCollins) memoirs.

The cavalcade of current events, however, should make everyone — Tony Blair included — a great deal cooler.



The titans of press power retired hurt. If the media drew a message from all this, it was that the media could get lost

Mr Murdoch takes too much paranoid flak. He is a brilliant operator and risk-taker who looks after number one. He doesn't deserve much of the demonisation. He has his human fallibilities. The empire is too hugely complex to be controlled in infinite detail: accidents will increasingly happen.

If a Chinese government anxious about a little blue book can make him wriggle, what has a popular and confident British government — able to take its case to the people — to fear? Who can say that, on the morning after a referendum, the Sun won't acknowledge reality, yet again, and start the old turtle wailing?

Mr Blair is thoughtfully analytical about his power. Inevitable majorities or no, he sees it as eternally fragile, dependent on keeping together the odd coalition that took him to Downing Street. Such apprehensive watchfulness is an asset. Yesterday's country-side sheen may be serious, but because the dislocated pressure groups within it are serious, but because the marchers are allowed to convince themselves of a wider seriousness. Jonathan Aitken may be leading the Defence Workers League round Hyde Park a week on Friday.

But there is a point when analysis turns to introspection if the people are left out of the equation: when power is only truly defined in the using of it. Rupert knows that. If they have a moment to switch on the TV, he'll see that the great beam on the face of Geri Spice means she knows it too.

GEC-Marconi retain disgraced politician Jonathan Aitken

Dirty arms deals

David Pallister

It seems a shameful move on the part of GEC-Marconi that it should hire Jonathan Aitken to help sell arms to the Middle East, as the company admitted doing at the weekend. Among the original causes of the Conservative former cabinet minister's disgrace was the exposure of his role in funneling commissions to the Saudi royal family.

Indeed, GEC was among Aitken's first Mid-East clients. In the mid 1970s, he negotiated with then GEC chairman Sir Arnold Weinstock the percentages of civil engineering contracts to be paid to the king's son, Prince Mohammed. In 1989, Aitken brokered another deal for the arms company BMARC, under which 15 per cent of a £500 million helicopter weapons' price would be handed over to Saudi royal

front-men if the contract was clinched. And he was closely involved with the notorious Al Yamamah arms deal, under which billions of pounds-worth of Tornado fighters are still being delivered to Saudi Arabia from British Aerospace, despite evidence that the then government lied about the existence of huge under-the-counter "sweeteners" to the Saudi royal family.

Documents that have come to light since the arrangement was launched by Mrs Thatcher in 1985, show suppliers secretly handed over 26 per cent "commissions" for ThornEMI bomb-fuses; 15 per cent or higher for Royal Ordnance bombs (the exact figure is described as an "official secret"); and according to writs recently issued, commissions of 15 per cent for the Rolls-Royce engines.

Aitken's one-time busi-

ness partner, Wafic Said, who represents the interests of Saudi royals, now agrees he helped broker the Al Yamamah deal, with British Aerospace. Companies connected to him controlled Mayfair and Chelsea apartments subsequently occupied by the chairman of British Aerospace, Dick Evans, and Mrs Thatcher's own son, Mark. Recycling the Middle East's oceans of petrodollars has always been a tricky and sticky business. In an autocratic state like Saudi Arabia, ruled as a personal fiefdom by the al-Saud clique for the past 60 odd years, it was no matter that 20 per cent of the budget went on defence; that Saudi manpower was inadequate and inadequately trained; that all this expenditure gave no security without over-the-horizon back-up from the West.

The favoured people prospered, pocketing millions,

often for doing nothing more than making discreet introductions.

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Rural lobbies rides high

ers to the Editor

Op Me

Note W

Endpiece

Ray Wattersley



usions
power

Rural lobby rides high

But is divided below

IT was a phenomenally successful march. Even the police counted 250,000. The organisers, as usual, counted more. And they may well have been right. It took five hours for all the marchers to leave the starting point. More than 2,000 coaches and 29 special trains brought them from every point in the country to the capital, London has not seen anything as large for over a decade. But was the Countryside Alliance right in its claim last night that the march had demonstrated "the rural lobby is alive and a force in politics"? A Labour Prime Minister, intent on representing as wide a constituency as possible, may be tempted to agree and make it even more difficult to ban fox hunting. That would be wrong.

The alliance is a coalition of contradictory interests. No wonder there were no speeches at the finishing point in Hyde Park. The conflicting interests would quickly have emerged: landowners v tenants, agri-businesses v smallholders, second-home owners v village workers. The alliance, which is dominated by the hunting, shooting and fishing lobby, sensibly widened its membership to include all disaffected rural groups to strengthen its campaign against the private member's bill banning fox hunting. Undoubtedly most of yesterday's marchers did support hunting. People who are about to lose a privilege will always turn out in much larger numbers than the people who believe in it being removed but are not directly affected.

The best way of splitting the Alliance is for Labour to ensure the next private member's bill banning hunting gets sufficient time. Once hunting is banned, the alliance will disappear. The large landowners are not interested in many of the other genuine rural issues which need addressing: loss of jobs, income, rural buses, housing, local schools and village shops. Labour is ideally placed to address these issues but should resist the calls to set up a special department for rural affairs. That would only further fragment transport and endanger environment protection.

The Palace of Westminster makes a pleasant change of pace after the alarm-clock urgency of the Today programme. For pointy-heads, political junkies and policy wonks it's a useful labour-saving device: Hansard in a digestible form, one that can be washed down with breakfast. For the general listener, it's the Radio 4 equivalent of muzak — background noise, pleasant and inoffensive.

He and the BBC should stand firm. Politics-addicts may love YIP but listening figures confirm it has become a specialist interest, like Test cricket. It makes perfect sense for it to join that other radio institution, Test Match Special, on long wave. As for the broader set of changes, MPs will have to do better than reflexively accusing the Beeb of "dumbing down." Instead Mr Kaufman and his fellow parliamentarians should look to themselves. If Parliament is less relevant to the public — including Radio 4 listeners — maybe MPs bear some of the blame. As the rows of empty green benches confirm, honourable members recognised a while ago that the Chamber is no longer the heart of the action.

Letters to the Editor

Tarantino and degrading acts

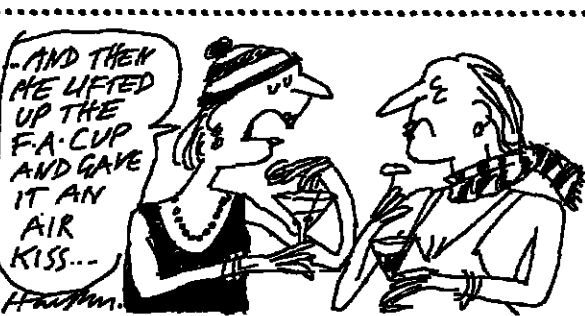
AM I alone in finding Quentin Tarantino overblown, overhyped and overrated? I watched Pulp Fiction recently having been assured that it would have me rolling on the floor with mirth. Pulp Fiction is a depressing, pompous and pretentious piece of low-grade, maverick trash, devoid of warmth, wit or intelligence, and filled with irritatingly banal, fatuous posturing by a half-witted assortment of narcissistic Hollywood luvvies.

Open the debate on MMR

MY son was due to have his MMR vaccine a few months ago, coinciding with pre-publication reporting of Dr Wakefield's findings (Alert over child jabs, February 27). I consulted my GP, who was only able to supply pro-vaccination information. I resolved to investigate further. I telephoned the Department of Health and was told it was media hype and that vaccination was safe.

THE Atlanta Center for Disease Control warns of the dangers of shunning immunisation (Doctors' Dilemma, February 27), but the centre itself has identified 34 major side effects of childhood jabs, including asthma, blood disorders, polio, meningitis, diabetes, neurological disorders and hearing loss, not to mention seizures three times the national average.

OUR 15-month-old son was due for his MMR last Friday when we saw your article. We cancelled his appointment. We had only agreed to the MMR after three months of discussion with the health authority.



The other half plays football, too

SO, David Lacey thinks that the FA Cup "is not impoverished; there's still a chance of a final between Arsenal and Leeds" (Barnesley's joy no skin off United's nose, G2, February 27). This is typical of the Wolves and Coventry, say, perhaps all you national journalists could decide to donate your free tickets to the fans of the two clubs. After all, you wouldn't enjoy the game, and you could write your patronising stories without seeing a ball being kicked.

than happy if West Ham overturn Arsenal in the quarter-finals. And I do apologise to Mr Lacey for hoping that my team, Wolves, win at Elland Road next Saturday. If the Cup final turns out to be between Wolves and Coventry, say, perhaps all you national journalists could decide to donate your free tickets to the fans of the two clubs. After all, you wouldn't enjoy the game, and you could write your patronising stories without seeing a ball being kicked.

Young people are not more selfish, just more in debt

THE challenge for many development agencies is how to make up the largest part of their workforce. Nonetheless, interest in working for an international aid agency remains higher in Britain than Owen Bowcott's article suggests (Third World charity blames selfishness for volunteer crisis, February 27).

find volunteers of any age to do mundane but essential tasks for no financial reward. It may be more connected with 18 years of emphasis on self-reliance and the concept that there is no such thing as society as lack of concern for those in distant parts.

THE tiger which ripped off the arm of a circus worker was said by one newspaper to be only doing what "comes naturally". Especially if the cat is locked up for 23 hours a day and only let out to be degraded.

It appears that a generation of vaccinated adults are now producing children with no natural immunity, while fatalities from illness are largely associated with malnutrition and poverty. The decrease in illnesses claimed as a result of vaccination occurred before the programmes began, as a result of improved public health.

THE rubella vaccine has been highly successful in reducing the incidence of rubella. The information includes: that potential side effects are more serious than those of the illnesses; that outbreaks occur more often in vaccinated children, who may develop atypical measles which can be more difficult to treat; that there can be damage to children's immune and central nervous systems.

WE believe that vaccinations are important, but we can't see the need to have them together as a triple. THE only reason we can see why this is done is to save money. The Government should take immediate action to ensure that parents who want the vaccinations are able to have them separately and without delay.

THE development of "brownfield" sites not merely provides homes but also removes the unsightly dereliction still prevalent in the inner cities (New homes for old plans by Prescott, February 24). It is much more attractive than the provision of homes in the green belt, with the resulting impact upon the environment.

Regalian has been a leader in urban regeneration throughout the 1980s and 1990s, taking a lead in the conversion of redundant office buildings to residential use. But we will have no choice but to back away if there is a lack of commitment from local planning authorities to review their procedures.

heartedly supports the need for a "more flexible approach to planning policy". Unfortunately, there has been little evidence of such an approach by planning authorities — for the policy proposed by John Prescott to succeed this flexible approach is even more essential.

But graduates now begin working life with loans to repay. The level of debt in the student population, not the size of bonuses in the City, is a more realistic indicator of the problem recruiters face.

AIN Gardner writes (Letters, February 28) that he always thought the A1 led to England not Scotland. No doubt the Scots have been conditioned by Dr Johnson's remark that the noblest prospect a Scotsman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England.

Is it not time we were treated as intelligent adults capable of making informed decisions? Deborah Duffin, Cotingham, E Yorks.

MY son, Callum, was given the MMR booster in February 1995. Shortly after he began to have violent diarrhoea. We had to restrict his diet: reduce his animal fat intake, no dairy or egg products, nothing with chocolate in it. No one would say what had caused our healthy son to be so unwell.

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Many examples exist in central London of unreasonable delays and unrealistic demands from these authorities, inevitably delaying development, and thus community development. Regalian whole-

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ANYONE with the benefit of an traditional education knows all roads lead to Rome. Arthur Musgrave, Bristol.

But research by the TUC points to a fall in the number of full-time officers, with each officer servicing an increased number of members, up from

3,000 to 4,500. As pressures on officers rise there is the danger of more members being frustrated by the difficulty of receiving the advice they want, when they need it. To avoid this unions need an integrated strategy which combines effective use of full-time officers, development of strong and largely self-servicing workplace organisation, and provision of specialist advice to members through help-lines and other channels.

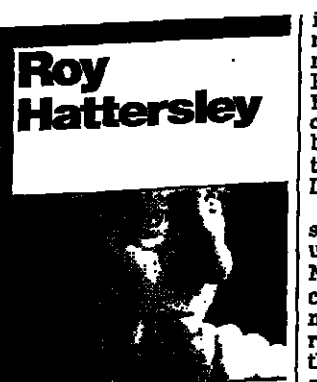
YOU referred to James Earl Ray as the assassin of Martin Luther King (World news in brief, February 26). Research by international human rights lawyer Dr William Pepper demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt the assassination was carried out by an agent of the US state.

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Endpiece: Sins of the flesh



WHY are evangelical Christians so obsessed with sex? Charity requires us to assume that they reject the devil and all his works. But they only burst into print when the little chap with horns and forked tail interferences with somebody's hormones — or when some liberal-minded clergyman says something sensible about love and libido. They are particularly exercised by what, in their tasteful way, they often call sodomy and insist that the scriptures are explicit in condemnation of something which, not being philosophers, they describe as unnatural. Unfortunately, believing

in the liberal truth of the revealed word, they cannot recommend the Peter Abolard Patent Abstinence Guarantee. For "He whose testicles are crushed or whose male member is cut off shall not enter the Assembly of the Lord" — Deuteronomy 23:11. Undeterred by such conclusive evidence of the Bible's unreliability, a group of Northumberland vicars has claimed that respect for "elementary biblical morality" requires them to reject the authority of their recently installed bishop and offer their episcopal allegiance to a retired prelate who shares their fundamentalist views. Unfortunately, by doing so they have cast some doubt on the strength of their evangelical convictions — or at least the consistency with which they accept the wisdom of holy writ. The Bible regularly condemns dissent: "For rebellion is the sin of witchcraft" — Samuel 15:22. The Northumberland dissenters seem only to take the Bible seriously when it pronounces on the sins of the flesh. The new bishop fell from their grace when they were told that he said "homosexuality within a permanent loving relationship is no sin".

Integrity requires me to admit that I am personally biased in favour of Martin Newcastles, as he no doubt now signs himself. Some time ago, he found me lost in a prosperous south London suburb and abandoned his official duties in order to guide me back to civilisation. He was, in those days, only a suffragan bishop and, as he stood on the pavement edge attempting to hail a taxi, he was wearing neither cope nor mitre. But his efforts on my behalf seemed refreshingly unepiscopal — at least as Dr Froude would have understood the pomp and dignity of that office. And he had just preached a sermon in which the contrast between the theologically impeccable message and the unconventional metaphor with which it was illustrated had given me great pleasure.

The Rt Rev Martin Wharton had compared the Almighty to a couple of predatory American widows who rejoiced to discover that a new resident in their Florida retirement home had just been released from prison after serving a life sentence for murdering his wife. "That means he is available," said one to the other. "Like them," said the bishop. "Our Lord will take anybody." As I applauded his outright rejection of Calvinism and its doctrine of redemption for only the elect, I feared that the more conventional members of a congregation might find the image slightly novel. It was, however, another manifestation of the bishop's inclusive view of Christianity — as witness his admirable belief that "God's love is for everyone, irrespective of their sexuality". It is by denying what, according to their faith, ought to be obvious truths, that the daft old men of Northumbria make me glad that I do not believe in their miracles and mysteries.

It has to be conceded that the Bible — particularly the Old Testament — contains a variety of ludicrous condemnations of homosexuality. But we are still left to wonder why the evangelicals are so obsessed with that particular subject and ignore so many other activities which the scriptures denounce. Why do we never read headlines which proclaim "Clergy refuse to accept bishop after learning of his investment in cocaine"? No Prince of the Church has, to my knowledge, ever been excommunicated for on the question

of exacting interest on loans to the poor, the Koran and the Bible stand shoulder to shoulder. And pious Muslims take the prophet's stern injunctions very seriously. It may be that a few reformed evangelists — my respect for David Shepherd prevents me from mentioning his name — have, in their time, cried out "Take thee no usury of him, but fear thy God" — Leviticus 25:36. But it does not seem to be the sort of "elementary biblical morality" that the heretic hounders of Newcastle feel obliged to go on about. Perhaps they are right, as members of a global economy, to think that rules governing an ancient agrarian society cannot be applied to modern capitalism. But why do they believe that the pattern of personal relationships which was thought right at the time when Moses was advocating the sacrifice of whole herds is right for the age of the Common Agricultural Policy? Clearly the evangelicals of Northumbria pick and choose from the testaments. To them, a loving homosexual relationship is more sinful than financial exploitation. Perhaps it was only the gay money-lenders who were driven out of the Temple.

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10 OBITUARIES

Dermot Morgan

Smiles and a savage wit

DERMOT Morgan became famous in Britain as Father Ted in the surreal Channel 4 comedy series of the same name, about three bizzare priests living on a tiny island off Ireland's west coast, but in his own country he was known for so much more.

His friends, colleagues, admirers and fans in Ireland were delighted that Morgan had finally reached the big time, but regarded his British television success as no more than his due after years of struggle and setbacks at home as he courageously took on the monoliths of State, Church and Establishment. His sudden death at 45 has sent shock waves around the country, Irish radio and television was dominated yesterday by tributes, with some of those interviewed close to tears.

Morgan was, quite simply, the most influential Irish humorist of the past 20 years; a writer, a stand-up comedian with an outstanding talent for mimicry, a bit recording artist and more than anything else — a savage and uncompromising satirist. *Scrap Saturday*, the radio show he created in the late 1980s with the writer and producer Gerry Stembridge (featuring Pauline McLynn, later of *Father Ted*), took as its targets lazy, self-serving and sometimes corrupt politicians and civil servants. At times it seemed as if the country stopped in its tracks for half an hour on Saturday morning, but it was dropped at the height of its popularity by RTE after, it was said, political pressure. Fans of the show — and that meant most of Ireland — were outraged.

But not as outraged as Morgan. Always angry, always committed to chipping away at the sometimes impenetrable rock of complacent bureaucracy to find the nug-

get of truth, he once more went on the offensive, attacking those who had dropped the show and railing at a system where freedom of speech could be stifled. This closed all avenues of work in Ireland, making his later British TV triumph so much more gratifying.

After studying at University College, Dublin, Morgan became a teacher. He started submitting scripts and ideas to a popular television show and made the occasional appearance. He did stand-up in an era before the phenomenon of comedy clubs. "Being a comedian in Ireland in 1977 was very grim," he said. "There were no outlets. I don't know how the hell I cobbled together enough gigs or appearances to get on a ladder towards something comedy-wise. It wasn't a particularly hospitable environment. I went to trade union clubs, all sorts of places, to get a start. They were crap and so was I."

'I wanted to do stuff that was taking on the establishment and bring a laugh and a poke and a slag at them'

to be honest with you! I was trying to find my métier.

"I genuinely say with a chuckle that I was, in a way, aged to get a career out of it at the end because I was a bit of a lost soul at that time. I wanted to do stuff that was satirical and taking on the establishment and bring a laugh and a poke and a slag at them. I think that out of stupidity and doggedness, or stupid doggedness, I managed to stay on the track."

He gave up teaching to con-

centrate on comedy, and in the early 1980s created the imperishable television character, Father Trendy, an ingratulating priest who prided himself on his knowledge of popular culture and his ability to relate to young people but who was really as hopelessly out of touch as his older colleagues.

To capitalise on his growing fame, RTE tried to fashion Morgan into the Dave Allen mould — a bit of chat, a few sketches — but it was tame stuff for someone with such an inventive, mercurial mind and was not a success. Not until *Scrap Saturday* did he find a true home for his awesome talents as a debunker of cant and hypocrisy.

Perhaps it was the well-meaning but ineffectual buffoon Father Trendy that Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathews remembered when they started casting *Father Ted*. Although Morgan was no great shakes as an actor, he was perfect for the role, backed up by McLynn, the veteran comic actor Frank Kelly as Father Jack and the stand-up comedian Ardal O'Hanlon as the spectacularly dim Father Dougal.

The success of the series transformed Morgan's life and confirmed the strong self-belief that had kept him going through the bad times. "Father Ted" had a profound personal effect on me in that it took the monkey off my back, that terrible feeling of frustration and being undervalued and valued. "We all like to be valued, we all like to think that we're recognised in some way. I don't mean being recognised on the street, I mean credited with being able to do a good job. After *Scrap Saturday* I thought I'd done enough to probably be allowed to sup at the table, and when the table was promptly whipped out from under me I was considerably disappointed."

That Morgan's life should



Awesome talent for debunking cant and hypocrisy... Dermot Morgan

end the way it did is almost unbearably poignant. After filming the last studio scenes for what is now likely to be the final series of *Father Ted*, followed by a party on Friday, he collapsed and died at a dinner party he was hosting at his Richmond, Surrey, home two days before his 46th birthday. And his mind was buzzing with new ideas.

Off-stage he was especially passionate about football and enjoyed the material rewards of fame. Known as a mischief-maker with a black sense of

humour, he didn't just turn on the comedy for his audiences, but was endlessly entertaining, full of impressions and ad lib. He is survived by his partner Fiona and his three sons.

If Morgan was an angry humorist, that anger was fuelled by a passion for Ireland and a strong desire to change things for the better. His life was short but immensely influential, and he had the satisfaction of seeing some of those changes taking place. The past 20 years have seen the

country grow and reach a new maturity as hitherto hidden scandals and horrors are unearthed. Morgan helped the process with his finely-honed weapons of savage humour and scathing contempt. Ireland owes him a debt of gratitude that now can never be repaid.

Stephen Dixon

Dermot Morgan, comedian, writer, satirist, actor, born March 2, 1952; died February 28, 1998

Cicely Yudkin

The earthy reality of fine art

THE lecturer and artist Cicely Yudkin, who has died aged 81, energised people. During the 1960s and early 1970s her Harley Street house was a meeting place for artists, actors, writers, philosophers and film makers such as Philip Sutton, Eli Wallach, Alan Bennett, Roger Scruton, and Dick Lester. And the cook at her dinner parties was a young researcher into medieval cookery — Della Smith.

Cis — as she was to all — was the wife of paediatrician Dr Sam Yudkin, and youngest child of an East End Jewish family in the clothing trade. Outrageous, generous, and unshockable, she brought an earthy life force to London's cultured society.

She had studied at St Martin's School of Art in the late 1940s but it was only after her husband's death in 1968 that she embarked on a career of art appreciation. She took an external London University art history diploma, then, aged 51 — but having removed 10 years from her official age — she started lecturing at Camden Adult Institute in 1970.

Her lectures were so popular that the education authorities granted her a dispensation to continue teaching after her 60th birthday. She was working until a few weeks before her death in adult education centres

around London, and still painting too.

Her lectures attracted large numbers of students and were distinguished by Cis's sense of theatre, her belief that artists are inseparable from their art, her knowledge of the most intimate details of artists' lives, and her grasp of the processes of painting. Thus did she, in conveying a sense of life and reality, open up fine art to many people, changing it, for some, from passing interest to lifelong passion. Books and doctoral theses have been dedicated to her by former students. In her eighties she was still conducting groups to art exhibitions at home and abroad.

On her many American trips she taped conversations with women artists such as Lee Krasner, Louise Nevelson and Elaine de Kooning that she embarked on a career of art appreciation. She took an external London University art history diploma, then, aged 51 — but having removed 10 years from her official age — she started lecturing at Camden Adult Institute in 1970.

Her lectures were so popular that the education authorities granted her a dispensation to continue teaching after her 60th birthday. She was working until a few weeks before her death in adult education centres



Energising people... Cicely Yudkin

mixed together. It gave my life a direction and meaning difficult to imagine without her stimulus.

Cis refused surgery after a brain tumour was diagnosed just before Christmas. She wanted to live the few weeks she knew she had left with the same zest as she had lived for the past 80 years.

Her funeral, a non-religious mixture of musical pieces and

tributes, attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life, was a celebration of a life rather than a mourning. She leaves two children, Judy and John, and her beloved elder sister, Jenny.

Robin Hazlewood

Cicely Yudkin, painter, lecturer, born October 29, 1916; died February 13, 1998

Kenneth Hyde

Educating the religious

THE crowning achievement of religious educator Dr Kenneth Hyde, who has died aged 83, was the 1990 publication of his *Religion in Childhood and Adolescence*, evaluating more than 1,700 studies carried out since the mid-1960s into the beliefs of children. Hyde was a significant contributor to the religious psychology of children and young people. The material for the book was assembled in the 1980s during his time as a senior research fellow at Birmingham University's School of Education.

Born in south London, the son of a bank clerk and a research fellow at Birmingham, Hyde worked for a paint company, briefly studied part-time for a chemistry degree, then opted for the Baptist ministry. He trained at Spurgeon's College in Bristol and his first church was in Rockwell Green, near Wellington in Somerset. In 1940 he married Beatrice "Beattie" Drake and was posted to the Far East as a Royal Air Force chaplain.

In 1947 he resumed his ministry and young people. The material for the book was assembled in the 1980s during his time as a senior research fellow at Birmingham University's School of Education.

In 1957 he became Edward Cadbury research fellow at Birmingham University's Institute of Education — his

PhD thesis was published in 1965 as *Religious Learning in Adolescence*. His second major book, *Religion and Slow Learners: A Research Study* appeared in 1969.

He lectured in religious education at Furzedown College between 1963 and 1971, then became Inner London Education Authority's leading religious education specialist, chairing London University Institute of Education's board of studies for religion, and was chief examiner in religious studies for the Joint Matriculation Board.

After his retirement he became a honorary senior research fellow at Birmingham. His ecumenical interests had been developing and he joined the United Reformed Church, becoming an elder. In 1989 he and Beattie retired, yet again, and moved to Beverley in Yorkshire, but she soon died.

Hyde's quiet personality and meticulous scholarship shaped religious education for more than a quarter of a century, and he helped move it from its 1950s Sunday School image into the research-based curriculum subject it is today.

John Hall

Kenneth Hyde, religious educator, born August 18, 1914; died February 10, 1998

Jackdaw



Poetic truth

IT'S JUST 150 years since *The Communist Manifesto* was published, in February 1848. Over that century and a half, different phrases have appeared to different plights and hopes. Today, it's the most poetic line in the whole tract that strikes home: "All that is solid melts into air."

Between the late 1940s and the late 1960s there was a flash of mutual recognition. Then, as now, the ideology of a global free-market society had conquered the world, above all, Britain, and shattered all security, all traditional bonds, all expectations that tomorrow would be much like today. "All fixed, fast-frozen

relations, with their train of ancient and venerable prejudices and opinions are swept away; all new formed ones become antiquated before they can ossify."

Then, much more than now, the rebellion against the ravages of uncontrolled free-market societies was beginning to gather its wit and rally its forces. Above all Marx and Engels failed to come to terms with nationalism, although it was to be the driving force of most of the 1848 revolutions. Memorably and wrongly, the Manifesto cries that "the working men have no country. We cannot take from them what they have not got."

The authors declare that the victory of the proletariat within a nation will automatically end the hostility between nations. And they sketch an ominous portrait of the New Proletarian Man, all too similar to *Homo Sovieticus* of the distant future, "stripped of all trace of national character. Law, morality, religion, are to him so many bourgeois prejudices."

No one can say the workers of the world will not one day "brothers be for all that".

though more in the sense of Robert Burns than *The Communist Manifesto*, and it was not Marx's fault that "proletarian internationalism" came to mean servile obedience to Soviet imperial orders. But 150 years on, it's plain that the book's real weakness as a manual for revolution was its underestimate of the nation as a force for good or evil. And a proletarian "stripped of national character" has yet to appear. *The Communist Manifesto* is still a good read, according to the *New Statesman*.

Cold fish

PLANT LIFE is confined to a few mosses and snow algae, so it is hardly surprising to find that the largest land animals living in Antarctica are tiny virtually anywhere else. But that's above ground. Antarctica is surrounded by one of the most productive oceans in the world, and it is here that the continent really bursts into life.

Very little lives in the first 6-10 metres of the shore be-

cause of the scouring effects of grounded icebergs in summer and the rasping ice in winter. Descending deeper, the animal diversity increases, and remarkable animals are easily found. The particularly striking *Lobster* starfish is one such example. Only found in Antarctica, large specimens of this starfish can measure half a metre in diameter. This animal is unique among starfish, possessing outstretched arms that are sticky to the touch, used for catching anything that drifts past, including krill and small fish. In fact there are very few marine groups unrepresented in the Antarctic waters, large crustaceans, such as lobsters and crabs, and mussels being the main exceptions.

Dive International spends some time on ice.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4366; write: Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR report headed Rattigan and the curious case of the gay major, Page 3, February 25, we gave the impression that the Lord Chancellor embraced, among his many other duties, the censorship of stage plays. This was the role of the Lord Chamberlain, who stepped into the part towards the end of our report.

IN THE Space supplement (which is available with the Guardian in some areas), Page 16, February 20, reference was made to "footwear that Captain Scott and Titus Oates could only have dreamt of going out for some time in". Captain Scott was accompanied by Lawrence Oates, not Titus Oates, on his Antarctic expedition. It was Lawrence Oates who, on the morning of March 17, 1912, said (in the words of the *Dictionary of National Biography*) "I am just going outside and may be some time." never to be seen again. Titus Oates (1845-1905) was the inventor of the "Popish Plot".

IN A report headed, No solace in sight for Saunders, Page 19, February 18, we mentioned "Labour's new miscarriage of justice unit". The Criminal Cases Review Commission, to which this referred, was, in fact, set up by the previous Conservative government.

ON PAGE 15, February 16, we referred to Robin Askew in connection with the "Confessions carry-ons of the 1960s". The star of those films was Robin Askew, although he had made several earlier films under the name, Robin Asquith. The Confessions series was not made in the 1960s. It began with *Confessions of a Window Cleaner* in 1974.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mages, by telephoning 0171 239 5229 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 338 9897. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

Bernard Ledwidge

Our highly convivial man in Israel

SIR Bernard Ledwidge, who has died aged 82, had a long and exceptionally active life as a diplomat, ending his career as ambassador to Israel, and writer. He did important work both for his country and for the international community, as well as giving a great deal of pleasure to his friends.

He was educated at Cardinal Vaughan School and King's College, Cambridge. He went on to spend two years at Princeton as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow before joining the army in 1939. He served in the Royal Artillery and, from 1941-45 in the Indian Army.

In 1946 he was appointed private secretary to the permanent under-secretary of the India Office, and, later in the year, secretary of the Frontier Areas Committee of Enquiry, Burma. He was back in London, working at the Foreign Office from 1947 until 1949, when he was appointed British consul in St Louis. He remained in that position until 1952, when he became First Secretary at the British Embassy in Kabul.

For five vital years (1956-61) of the Cold War, he worked as political adviser to the British military government in Berlin, where he found time to indulge his passion for theatre by performing in amateur dramatics. In a 1956 production of *Love's Labour's Lost* at the British Centre, he almost stole the show with a suavely droll performance in the role of Boyan.

After returning to London in 1961, he worked in the Foreign Office again for four years and was appointed a CMG in 1964, before being sent in 1965 as minister to Paris, where General de Gaulle, who was re-elected that year as president, was opposing British entry to the European Community. Ledwidge, who frequently had dealings with him, was later to write a lengthy and perceptive biography, *De Gaulle* (1982), which was followed two years later by another book on him, this time written in French, *De Gaulle et Les Americains*.

After four years in Paris as

minister, Ledwidge was given the first of his two ambassadorial appointments. He was British ambassador to Finland (1969-72), and spent the next four years as our ambassador in Israel.

He was there during the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and had a good deal of contact with the president, Golda Meir, until she resigned in 1974, unable to form a government when her Labour Party was held responsible for the lack of preparation before the war with the Arabs. She was succeeded by Yitzhak Rabin, and the same year — 1974 — Ledwidge received his knighthood.

After returning to England, he was elected as chairman of the United Kingdom Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), and held the position for 13 years. For five of those he was also a member of the Police Complaints Board.

He had two long and happy marriages. First in 1948 to Anne Kingsley, with whom he had a son and a daughter. His second marriage was to a charming and distinguished French novelist and short story writer, Flora Groult. The Ledwidges had homes in Paris and Kensington, where their dinner parties were unforgettable.

In addition to the two books on De Gaulle, he wrote a novel, *Frontiers* (1979), and collaborated on a volume of short stories, *Nouvelles de Famille* (1990).

It was typical of him that in *Who's Who* he listed his recreations as "drinking and talking". The qualities he displayed in both activities included charm, discernment, moderation, conviviality and courtesy, and his conversation was almost always characterised by keen intelligence, political wisdom, the ability to understand viewpoints he did not share, perspicacity, dry humour and erudition.

Ronald Hayman

William Bernard John Ledwidge, diplomat and writer, born November 9, 1915; died February 20, 1998



Drinking, talking, and books on De Gaulle... Sir Bernard

Birthdays

Arrowsmith, pacifist campaigner, 68; Margaret Barberi, ballerina, 51; Barry Blech, founder, London Mozart Players, 83; Kevin Curren, tennis player, 38; John Gardner, composer, 81; Mikhail Gorbachev, former president, USSR, 67; Sir Donald Gosling, joint chairman, National Car Parks Ltd, 68; Peter Heathfield, former general secretary, NUM, 68; Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, 75; Dame Naomi James, yachts-

woman, 49; Nicholas Jarrold, ambassador to Latvia, 52; Jennifer Jones, actress, 79; Grace Kennedy, singer, 83; George Layton, actor, comic writer, 54; Robert Lloyd, opera singer, 57; Peter Longman, director, Museums and Galleries Commission, 52; Sir John Manuell, composer, 70; Lembit Opik, Elin Den MP, 33; John Tusa, broadcaster, 62; John Peter Rhys (J P R) Williams, rugby player and surgeon, 49; Ian Woosnam, golfer, 39.

A Harry Griffin

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: Longedale was a delight this crisp, sunny morning — banks of snowdrops along the lane, hedges neatly trimmed, a new shimmer of green in the fields, the Sprint in merry spate and, in the distance, a dusting of snow on the high fells. From Sadgill we were making for Harter Fell, passing on the way, the fine cliff most 50 years ago. I had led a looked frightening; I'd never even get off the ground there today. Further on, it was disappointing to see the condition of the upper part of Gatescarth Pass, not visited for a few years. It is now a mass of deep ruts, boulders and mud that even the agile pack-horses that went this way would have had difficulty in negotiating. It was a relief to get to the upper slopes of Harter Fell and, on top, to tread sunlit snow for only the second time this winter. Much of Lakeland, from the Scafells to High Street, was on view as well as Ingle-

borough, the Howgills and the Northern Pennines, the dusting of snow on north and east-facing slopes bringing out the crags into bold, black relief. It was biting cold in the north wind, and we were glad we had lunched in a sheltered rock corner on Little Harter. Darning there would be no protection on the top. The walk down into the afternoon sunshine over Kentmere Pike and Shipman Knotts is always a delight — hands in pockets, if you like, until you come to the last, scramble down a rocky groove and then along the stony lane to sniff the first wood smoke from the Sadgill cottages.

A Harry Griffin

In Memoriam

WHITE, David Sydney, died 2nd March 1998. Forever remembered loved mother. 0171 713 4500, or by 011 713 4729 between Sun and 3pm Mon-Fri.

The Guardian
Ledwidge
r highly
vivial
n in Israel

The Guardian Monday March 2 1998

The Budget may address Labour's poor image on family benefit but there are lessons from overseas

FINANCE AND ECONOMICS 11

Up or down: it's a matter of opinion

Debate

Bridget Rosewell

THE Bank of England is exercised by the question of whether the economy is turning down and, if so, how fast. This is by no means an academic problem; whether we get yet another interest rate rise depends on the answer.

The Bank wants to know whether the existing policy stance will slow the economy sufficiently quickly to prevent upward pressure on earnings growth and retail inflation. The difficulty is that nobody knows. The latest data show (pretty inaccurately and subject to major revisions) where we have been but not much about where we are.

Moreover, the real conundrum is where we are going. We know that any changes in interest rates operate on the economy with a lag. It takes about 18 months to two years, according to the Bank, before the total impact of a change in interest rates is felt on inflation. In the past 10 months we have had five quarter-point rises in rates, so their impact is only beginning to be felt.

The monetary policy committee will have to raise rates again if there is clear evidence the heat has not been turned down enough. The committee's anti-inflation credibility will be dented and individual reputations tarnished. Small wonder the committee is split.

The economy appears to be hovering on the brink of a downturn, but we won't be sure for about a year. In 1996 it was still easy to find people who talked about "when the recession ends". In fact, the recession ended in 1992. However, it didn't look like the end of a recession: prices did not recover.

It used to be thought that we could use models to answer the question. These purported to be capable of providing an abstraction of how the economy worked, which could be used to describe its development into the future (or estimate the present). The experience of the past 20 years shows that they are not good enough.

When they give the right answers, it tends to be because their operations were justified by the judgments of the forecasters — and the same applies to the wrong answers.

Some argue that this is because the data are not good enough or the models too incomplete. But more and more effort and larger and larger models do not seem to have improved matters much. The Bank now uses a variety of forecasting methods, according to preference, judgment and the problem at hand.

Some argue that the whole process is a waste of time. They point out that, because no relationship can be discerned between one quarter's GDP and the next, the analysis of economic time series is useless. The fact that the economy grew this quarter provides no evidence that it will do so in the next. This conclusion vindicates the doubts about models that some users have had for some time. The analyst at the forefront of this argument, Paul Ormerod, was once a forecaster.

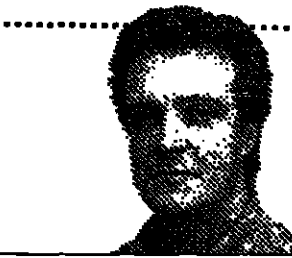
BUT it does not solve our problem. Some judgment has to be made about the level of the short-term interest rate. What committee members do is look around, read the available statistics, conduct and read research, and make up their individual minds.

In this process, they ought to take all the views they can get — so here is mine. There is a lot of potential bad news out there. Consumers are cautious, spending heavily in the sales but not at Christmas; the East Asian crisis may yet be worse than it looks; investment is weak and the exchange rate is wreaking damage. Earnings are up, but only just above a sustainable rate, in spite of low unemployment. A target of 2.5 per cent is awfully precise in this uncertain world and a cautious person would want to under-shoot. I would rather take the risks on both sides and have a bit of growth as well.

Let the MFC do nothing for the next few months — and the next move may yet be down.

Bridget Rosewell chairs Business Strategies Ltd and is a special adviser to the Treasury Select Committee

Tax credit has its limit



Mark Atkinson

SO the Government does like women and children after all. The impression that it did not — created by the decision to press ahead with Tony Blair's Family Credit, which goes mainly to women, with a US-style working families tax credit, payable mainly to men — is expected to be corrected in the Budget.

Last week's stories hinting at Budget hand-outs for child care and increased benefits for low-income families with children suggest ministers were genuinely worried by the uproar over their policies towards the family. Although weekend government briefings have attempted to bring down the extent of the largesse, ministers seem nevertheless to have taken on board criticisms that the Working Families Tax Credit would transfer spending power from women to men. Now it seems a method has been found for non-working women to receive their husbands' tax credit via the benefits system.

There were hints also that the child premium on income support — the amount for each child in families on benefit — will be increased. And in addition all parents in households earning less than £20,000 will get extra help towards child care costs. These measures would obviously be a long way to justifying the rhetoric coming out

of the Treasury that this will be a Budget which will put women and children first though the Chancellor would be wise not to press that claim too far for fear of inviting comparisons with the Titanic.

Combined with other changes to the tax and benefits system designed to make the low paid better off — a starting rate for tax of 10p, reduced national insurance contributions, and an easing of the rate at which benefits are withdrawn as earnings rise — the overall package could lift families out of poverty and make transitions back into work easier.

But the devil will be in the detail. In a report published today, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation warns that overseas research shows tax credit systems are not a magic formula. The Canadians abandoned theirs after discovering it reduced incentives to work in twice as many cases as it improved them.

It might pay Mr Brown to study closely, if he has not already done so, the experiences of Canada and Australia which have both adopted super child benefit. This rolls all state help for child-rearing into a single universal payment, payable to working and non-working families.

Two studies, the first by Jane Millar of the University of Bath, the second by Michael Mendelson of the Caledonian Institute of Social Policy in Toronto, suggest such a scheme would have much to recommend it.

So how would a super child benefit work in practice? In Britain it would involve smoothing the transition between unemployment and work because there would be no need to make a fresh claim (as there is now when families start signing up and threaten to take the issue to Germany's supreme court).

Germany's Federal Statistics office said the nation's 1997 budget deficit totalled 2.7 per cent of gross domestic product — well under the 3 per cent limit required. The Bavarian prime minister, Ed-

ward Stöckert, compounded the threat by signalling that Bavaria could vote against the euro when it comes before both houses of the German parliament next month.

Germany's 16 states are represented in the upper house or Bundesrat. The prestigious German Economics Research Institute said that, using the same data adduced on Friday, it had calculated the budget deficit at 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product for the first nine months of last year.

"According to the results presented now, public investment would have had to fall 23 per cent in the last quarter. Scarcely believable," said institute analyst Friederike Speiser.

Bavaria's main concern is whether Italy, although posting qualifying figures last week, can sustain its fiscal and monetary austerity in the longer term.

Reports in Bonn, meanwhile, said that Germany and France have resolved their tussle over who should be the first head of the European Central Bank.

Paris has relinquished its claim in return for assurances that it will be able to name the successor.

The alleged deal should clear the way for the Dutch head of the European Monetary Institute, Wim Duisenberg, to become the first ECB chief.

But another row over the ECB may be brewing, as the

unemployment trap, whereby you lose out of work benefits as soon as you take up a job.

For example, you cannot normally get income support if you or your partner are in full-time paid work, meaning 16 hours or more each week. Enhancing child benefit could be quite expensive. As an illustration of this, it would cost the Exchequer an extra £7 billion to double child benefit, currently worth around £11 a week for the first child.

The costs could be mitigated by subjecting the super child benefit to an affluence test. In other words, high-income families would have the benefit withdrawn gradually until you get to a certain level where it would be removed altogether.

Despite the protests which followed Harriet Harman's floating of the idea of an afflu-

ence test in relation to child benefit, there remains a compelling case for one, even if the manifesto commitment to retaining universal child benefit makes change this side of the next election tricky. It is plainly absurd that a captain of industry with children should receive the same amount in child benefit as his office cleaner.

As well as the extra cost involved, there is also the question of how you assess entitlement.

Should it be done through the benefits system or the tax system? All of this throws up complicated administrative issues which suggest that super child benefit will not be the inevitable rabbit that Mr Brown pulls out of his hat on

Budget Day. He already has enough to contend with. But it might be worthwhile filing away the Millar and Mendelson papers for later in the parliament.

By that time the comprehensive spending reviews will have been completed, the budget deficit will (one hopes) have been eradicated, and more cash will be available for a programme which has the potential to make a real difference to combating child poverty.

***The Working Families Tax Credit: Options and Evaluation. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation.**

Making Work Pay: Integration of Family Payments in Australia. Jane Millar, Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy, University of Bath. To be published soon by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The WIS that was: Replacing the Canadian Working Income Supplement. Michael Mendelson. Published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation earlier this year.

Here, only certain categories of employees, including 40 per cent taxpayers and the self-employed, are required to fill in tax returns.

The UK would have to move towards the Canadian and Australian systems or require more families to have their income assessed by the benefits office for an integrated child benefit to succeed.

Jane Millar says the problem can be addressed by getting people to give the tax numbers of their spouse/partner on their tax return and then the tax office marrying up the information. Canada and Australia do this.

All of this throws up complicated administrative issues which suggest that super child benefit will not be the inevitable rabbit that Mr Brown pulls out of his hat on

Brown should study Australia and Canada which both have super child benefit, a universal payment for working and non-working families

does not erect artificial barriers between the "good" poor — working households — and the "bad" poor who, for whatever reasons, are not in jobs.

Fourth, it allows single parents, men or women, who do not want to work the opportunity to stay at home and look after their children rather than farm them out to someone else.

Fifth, it seamlessly smoothes the transition between unemployment and work because there would be no need to make a fresh claim (as there is now when families start signing up and threaten to take the issue to Germany's supreme court).

Since each deals with different customers, the benefits system with the jobless and low paid, the tax system with everyone else, neither would

be particularly satisfactory on their own.

The unit of assessment is also different. In the case of the benefits system it is the household, whereas the tax system assesses individuals.

So that means the tax system has no idea of whether you are a low-paid man who is struggling to feed a family of five or the spouse of a rich female barrister who is keeping you in the style to which you are accustomed.

An integrated approach would be better — either by having the income of everyone who wants the benefit assessed by the Benefits Agency or through the tax system.

The latter is relatively easy in Australia and Canada where nearly everyone files an annual household tax return.

But in the UK, where Pay As You Earn tax systems were invented, most of the basic administration for people with straightforward tax affairs is done by employers. Hence most people do not fill in an annual tax return which could include information about their household income.

Here, only certain categories of employees, including 40 per cent taxpayers and the self-employed, are required to fill in tax returns.

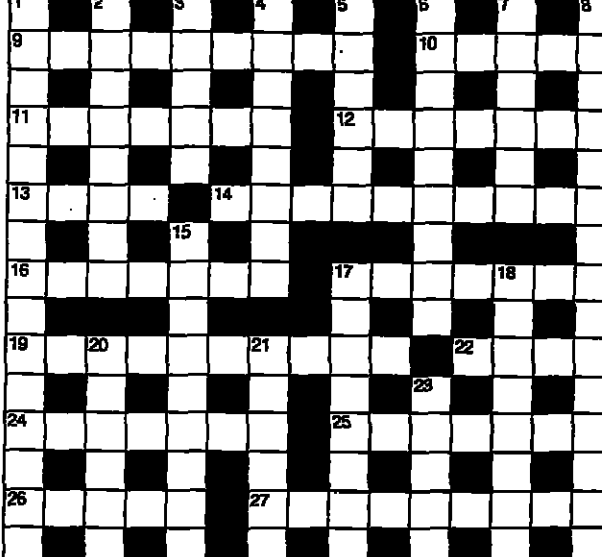
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Guardian Crossword No 21,211

Set by Rufus



Across

- Pledge given by senator is broken (9)
- Freezing — a coat is being provided (5)
- Put out of mind (7)
- Composition that calls for assurance of touch (7)
- Turn out to be in error about a point (4)
- Forever aimless (7,3)
- Beat, after exciting recount (7)
- Stage at which one may get on (3,4)
- I represent change and the readiness to accept it (10)
- Vagrant joins fireside circle (4)
- A pamphlet said to have some appeal (7)
- Controlling factor (7)

Down

- Exposed as a dummy (5,2,3,5)
- Wild spees? Very strong coffee required (8)
- "Stretch" or "bird" (5)
- Half-lick of a cat on hand (8)
- A quick grasp of music (8)
- Talk the underworld way (9)
- I'm raised with anger that's more apparent than real (8)
- Sports day event in which competitors run until they drop (3-3-5,4)
- Grows wrinkled (8)
- Scene of low life (8)
- Nevertheless a street

Solution tomorrow

- 20 It is repeatedly raised by an outstanding painter (5)
- 21 Confirm a try if it is converted correctly (6)
- 22 He gives things away but is not admired for it (5)

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Winners of the Guardian Crossword No 21,211

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Germany's euro joy diluted by challenge to figures

Jan Traynor in Hanover and Martin Walker in Brussels

GERMAN satisfaction at making the grade for the single European currency was dealt a double blow at the weekend.

First, the powerful southern state of Bavaria warned it may seek to delay the euro and then economy experts challenged the credibility of Friday's figures showing that

Germany meets the criteria. Erwin Huber, the Bavarian finance minister, demanded a rigorous examination of the economic data for all countries signing up and threatened to take the issue to Germany's supreme court.

Germany's Federal Statistics office said the nation's 1997 budget deficit totalled 2.7 per cent of gross domestic product — well under the 3 per cent limit required. The Bavarian prime minister, Ed-

ward Stöckert, compounded the threat by signalling that Bavaria could vote against the euro when it comes before both houses of the German parliament next month.

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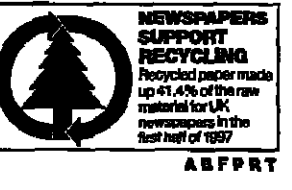


Duisenberg, likely ECB chief

European Parliament tries to gain democratic oversight over the institution by threatening to hold American-style confirmation proceedings for candidates for the ECB board.

TOURIST RATES — BANK \$£LS			
Australia 2.37	Germany 2.3044	Malaysia 5.12	Singapore 2.60
Austria 20.44	Greece 462.39	Malta 0.63	South Africa 7.93
Belgium 59.96	Hong Kong 12.40	Netherlands 3.2622	Spain 244.94
Canada 2.28	India 64.66	New Zealand 2.75	Sweden 12.95
Cyprus 0.85	Ireland 1.1749	Norway 12.14	Switzerland 2.36
Denmark 11.14	Israel 5.90	Portugal 297.57	Turkey 362.520
Finland 8.90	Italy 9.884	Saudi Arabia 6.07	USA 1.6124
France 9.72			

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12 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

McCoy charges towards record

Chris Hawkins charts the career of the Irishman who is setting new standards

TONY MCCOY became the second jockey in the history of National Hunt racing to reach 200 winners in a season when pulling out and McCoy looks certain, barring injury, to set a new best with three months of the season remaining.

Only Peter Scudamore, who rode a record 221 winners in 1988-89, has previously passed the double century mark and McCoy looks certain, barring injury, to set a new best with three months of the season remaining.

John Francoise, who rode 1138 winners during a 15-year career but never more than 131 in a season, was arguably the supreme jump jockey.

The almost imperceptible help he gave his mounts made him the personification of the phrase "poetry in motion" and McCoy will never match his style. But Francoise is a

great fan of the 23-year-old Irishman and says: "He never seems to give up and I've seen him win on horses that have no right to be in the winners' enclosure. Tony has pulled countless races out of the fire but his Cheltenham Gold Cup win on Mr Mulligan last season was superb. He made a difficult ride look so easy."

It all began for McCoy when his dad, who runs a post office and village store in Moneyglass, County Antrim, put him on the family mare when he was two.

But although potty about football and Arsenal in particular, he did not get the bug until he was 10 when he rode an old racehorse at the nearby stables of Billy Rock, a small-time trainer who immediately spotted McCoy's potential.

"When he was 12 he came

to work for me on Saturdays," recalls Rock. "I let him ride two of my racehorses round the all-weather gallop and the kid was hooked. I don't know what he had. It was some kind of uncanny gift."

"He'd only a handful of riding lessons but even at that age could get on the biggest horse and ride it round a field on a slack rein. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I would never have believed it. Nobody taught McCoy — he taught himself."

McCoy moved on to Jim Bolger's big flat yard at Coolcullen when he was 15 but increasing weight meant he had to switch to jumping and he made a big decision to come to England in the summer of 1994 and ride for Toby Balding.

He tells a story about his first ride: "It was at Stratford and for some reason I didn't have any riding boots with me. John Buckingham, the weighing-room valet, chucked me a pair and said 'try these' — they're Peter Scudamore's old boots, but you'll never be able to fill 'em."

Little did Buckingham know and few could have predicted McCoy's meteoric rise. In his first season he was top conditional rider with 74 winners and incredibly a year later was champion jockey with 175 successes.

Teaming up with Martin Pipe the following season meant an amalgam of the two obsessional and they have now become an irresistible force, garnering prizes and sweeping all aside like a juggernaut.

Pipe is a man of few words but he sums up McCoy thus: "He tries 100 per cent on everything he rides. He is unbeatable in the championship. I've been associated with Peter Scudamore and Richard Dunwoody — great men, great champions — but Tony has been in it all so much shorter time."

Grand National not on agenda for trial winner Dom Samourai

WHILE Tony McCoy was occupied at Kempton, Chris Maude was doing the business for Martin Pipe at Haydock on Saturday, landing a double for him on Dom Samourai and Abou Hen before a record crowd of over 12,000, writes Chris Hawkins.

Dom Samourai stays all day and relished the three-and-a-half miles of the Greenlands Grand National Trial beating Him Of France by seven lengths. But the grey seven-year-old, who is on the small side, is not entered in the Martell National at Aintree because connections are not keen to see him tackling the fences. The Midlands National on March 21 and the Scot-

tish National are the likely targets provided the ground is soft.

Him Of France came out best of the 11 Martell National entries in the race and is on course for Aintree where he has won 715 and would benefit from a rise in the weights headed by Sun Bay.

At Kempton the Racing Post Chase went to Super Tactics, ridden by Andrew Thornton. Robert Alner, trainer of the winner, revealed that he thought Super Tactics was short of a gallop and expects the ten-year-old to improve although there will be nothing for him at Cheltenham or Aintree because he must have a right-hand kick.



Champion show... Tony McCoy rejoices after hitting the 200 mark

Motor Sport

Patient Burns poised for win in Kenya rally

David Williams in Nairobi

WITH barely a quarter of the Safari Rally remaining, Richard Burns stands on the verge of winning his first world championship rally after a day of carnage on the roads of northern Kenya.

He battled for more than 600 miles with a slipping clutch, survived a high-speed spin unscathed and lost time with an overheating engine as the rally crossed the equator. Yet he kept within range of his Mitsubishi team leader, the world champion Tommi Mäkinen, and his fellow Briton Colin McRae, who had rocketed from seventh to second place after losing time with two punctures on Saturday.

Burns's persistence was rewarded late yesterday after

noon when McRae dropped out with engine failure in his Subaru and Mäkinen soon succumbed to a similar problem.

"It was frustrating to start with but that's what the Safari is about," said a weary Burns, streaked with sweat and dust. "If I can stay trouble-free it will be all right, but I'm not even thinking about the finish."

Burns, youngest of the professional drivers, will be under immense pressure today as he nurses a six-minute lead — a slender margin by Safari standards — over the Finnish veteran Ari Vatanen in a Ford.

Burns is the only driver in the top five who has never been world champion, but it says much for his growing reputation that he is not believed to be a flake. He is a superb test of nerve and judgment.

Sailing

Conner's crew entangled in snagged seaweed row

Bob Fisher

TOSHIBA faces disqualification from the Whitbread Round the World Race because she used her engine in reverse — to clear clumps of seaweed from her underside.

The race committee has lodged a protest against Denise Conner's boat, which was abashed into Sao Sebastiao after the fifth leg from Auckland.

The committee says that use of the engine a week ago last Friday breached the Racing Rules, and says the situation did not constitute an emergency.

The episode became public after Toshiba's captain Paul

Standbridge and crew member Kelvin Harrop recorded it in the race document, which all crew must sign.

The incident was not reported immediately, as it should have been, nor was the fact that the propeller shaft seal had been broken. Ian Bailey-Willmot, the race director, said the matter was "very serious".

The fact that only two of the crew admitted the rule infringement is strange, as this is a breach of the rules which could see Toshiba disqualified from the leg and possibly banned from further participation in the race. All 12 on board could also be banned from sailing in future.

The International Jury is likely to rule early this week.

Newcastle runners and riders plus form guide

CHRIS HAWKINS

2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
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TOP FORM

2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
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2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

2.20 ADVENTURE RACE CATERING MAIDEN HURDLE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.55 ST. MOWEN HANICAP HURDLE
2m 12.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

2.50 STEPHEN EASTON NOVICE CHASE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

3.20 NORTHERN RACING HANDICAP CHASE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

3.50 KID & SPOOR HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.25 JOHN J. STRAKER CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

Plumpton Jackpot card

CHRIS HAWKINS

2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2.20 **Stillicite** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

2.10 SYLVIE NOVICE HURDLE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

1.40 SCAYNES HILL MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 1)
2m 11.22.63 (16 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

2.40 BARCOMBE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 11.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

3.30 CAUCASUS AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP (DIV 2)
7m 12.22.63 (10 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

3.40 SCAYNES HILL MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 2)
2m 11.22.63 (16 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.00 APPENHINES SELLING HANDICAP (DIV 1)
2m 11.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.15 UNKIDLY HANDICAP CHASE
3m 11.10.22.63 (11 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.35 APPENHINES SELLING HANDICAP (DIV 2)
2m 11.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

4.45 CLAYTON MARES' ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 41.22.63 (10 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

5.05 PYRENEES HANDICAP 3YO
1m 51.22.63 (5 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

NEWCASTLE 771
PLUMPTON 772
SOUTHWELL 773

4.25 JOHN J. STRAKER CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
2m 41.22.63 (13 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

3.00 ALPS HANDICAP
1m 51.22.63 (5 declared)

1. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
2. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6
3. 5343 **Adventurous** (10) M. J. Hannon 5-11-6

Trainer watch

Handicap training first time for a new 2-year-old gelding. Newcastle: 2.30 Good Day, 3.00 Thompson to a Williams & Liddell gelding. Plumpton: 2.30 Alcock, 3.00 Alcock, 3.30 Alcock, 4.00 Alcock, 4.30 Alcock, 5.00 Alcock, 5.30 Alcock, 6.00 Alcock, 6.30 Alcock, 7.00 Alcock, 7.30 Alcock, 8.00 Alcock, 8.30 Alcock, 9.00 Alcock, 9.30 Alcock, 10.00 Alcock, 10.30 Alcock, 11.00 Alcock, 11.30 Alcock, 12.00 Alcock, 12.30 Alcock, 13.00 Alcock, 13.30 Alcock, 14.00 Alcock, 14.30 Alcock, 15.00 Alcock, 15.30 Alcock, 16.00 Alcock, 16.30 Alcock, 17.00 Alcock, 17.30 Alcock, 18.00 Alcock, 18.30 Alcock, 19.00 Alcock, 19.30 Alcock, 20.00 Alcock, 20.30 Alcock, 21.00 Alcock, 21.30 Alcock, 22.00 Alcock, 22.30 Alcock, 23.00 Alcock, 23.30 Alcock, 24.00 Alcock, 24.30 Alcock, 25.00 Alcock, 25.30 Alcock, 26.00 Alcock, 26.30 Alcock, 27.00 Alcock, 27.30 Alcock, 28.00 Alcock, 28.30 Alcock, 29.00 Alcock, 29.30 Alcock, 30.00 Alcock, 30.30 Alcock, 31.00 Alcock, 31.30 Alcock, 32.00 Alcock, 32.30 Alcock, 33.00 Alcock, 33.30 Alcock, 34.00 Alcock, 34.30 Alcock, 35.00 Alcock, 35.30 Alcock, 36.00 Alcock, 36.30 Alcock, 37.00 Alcock, 37.30 Alcock, 38.00 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England's hope

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The Guardian Sport

Monday March 2 1998

West Indies v England: fourth Test, third day

Mike Selvey sees some gutsy batting force Lara's men to bat again in Georgetown

Ramprakash gives England hope

AN INNINGS of character and skill from Mark Ramprakash and Brian Lara's bizarre captaincy combined to give England just the vaguest glimmer of an escape route at Bourda yesterday.

Starting the third day on 87 for six and still needing 66 to avoid the follow-on, Ramprakash produced his best innings for England in a disjointed international career, played immaculately to reach an unbeaten 64 and nursed the tail so well that England were not dismissed until 47 minutes into the afternoon session. They had reached 170, still 183 shy of West Indies' 352.

West Indies lost wickets themselves in a frenetic start to their second innings, including those of the first-innings century-maker Shivnarine Chanderpaul, run out first ball, and Lara, caught at silly point by Mark Butcher.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES
First innings (overnight: 271-3)
S Chanderpaul c Thorpe b Fraser 118
L L Hooper c Hussain b Headley 40
J C Adams bow b Tufnell 28
D Williams c Croft b Headley 24
I R Bishop c Butcher b Croft 14
C E L Ambrose c Headley b Tufnell 9
C A Walsh not out 0
D Ramprakash c Russell b Croft 0
Extras (b4, lb14, nb12) 30
Total (128.1 overs) 352
Fall of wickets: 285, 316, 331, 347, 349, 352
Bowling: Headley 31-2-40-2; Fraser 23-7-22-2; Butcher 3-0-15-2; Croft 25-1-0-2; Tufnell 25-10-25-2

ENGLAND
First innings
M A Atherton c Lara b Ambrose 0
A J Stewart c D Williams b Walsh 20
M A Butcher bow b Bishop 11
N Hussain bow b Walsh 20
G P Thorpe c D Williams 10
B Ramprakash not out 64
M R Ramprakash not out 10
R D B Croft c Lara b Hooper 0
D W Headley c D Williams b Hooper 0
A R C Fraser c Lara b Ramprakash 0
C R H Tufnell c Bishop b Ambrose 0
Extras (b10, lb2, nb14) 30
Total (87.1 overs) 170
Fall of wickets: 1, 37, 41, 65, 75, 138, 139, 140
Bowling: Walsh 27-7-47-2; Ambrose 12-4-21-2; Ramprakash 17-6-29-2; Bishop 13-4-26-1; Adams 3-2-5-0; Hooper 15-6-29-2

WEST INDIES
Second innings
S L Campbell c Ramprakash b Fraser 17
S L Williams c Stewart b Headley 10
S Chanderpaul run out 30
S C Lara c Butcher b Tufnell 30
C L Hooper bow b Headley 34
J C Adams not out 12
D Williams not out 12
Extras (lb4, nb3) 7
Total (for 37 overs) 118
Fall of wickets: 4, 32, 32, 75, 82
To bat: C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, D Ramprakash, C A Walsh, Unplayable S A Bucknor and D B Hair.

off Phil Tufnell for 30. But at 119 for five they had a lead of 301 and, barring civil unrest or torrential rain, ought to have little trouble securing a 2-1 lead in the series.

Lara could make the claim and indeed did — that it was a matter of indifference to him whether England followed on or not, and in the context of a West Indies win he might well be right. But the fact that he refused to use Curtly Ambrose, presumably saving him for a pop at England in the second innings, indicated how much he wanted to bowl them out and get at England again.

Ambrose was called up to issue the *coup de grace* only when things were becoming embarrassing, and only then when Lara was off the field and Carl Hooper temporarily took over the reins.

Quite simply Lara was too clever for his own good, and it came back to haunt him at the start of West Indies' second innings when Stuart Williams was out to a smart catch by Alec Stewart at second slip as he drove airily at Dean Headley and then, five overs later, Sherwin Campbell and Chanderpaul were out to successive balls.

History will probably not endow Williams and Campbell with the same reverence it reserved for Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, and neither has enjoyed a happy series.

Campbell looked to be on his way out of the slump yesterday, however, cracking Headley to the square-leg boundary and then covering driving him for another four, holding the pose just long enough to make sure it was there for photographic posterity. But when he had made 17 he fended Fraser off his hips and Ramprakash at short leg held a sharp catch.

Chanderpaul was given a hero's welcome by the Guyanese crowd, but their pleasure was shortlived as he pushed his first ball into the covers and called Lara for a quick single.

Nasser Hussain was on the ball in a trice and the judgement of the third umpire was that, as his throw hit the stumps, Chanderpaul's bat was on the line and therefore he was out. It was the closest margin but sufficient, and a case of technology giving a fair judgment



Man of steel... Mark Ramprakash drives the ball through mid-off during his innings of 64 not out that ensured England did not have to follow on

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Upright West Indies are leaky, creaky and down in the dumps

B C Fires finds little Caribbean cheer at Bourda as Lara's slackers let things slip

AT the start of the third day of the Nth Test at Bourda, West Indies fans were loudly debating the advantages of Brian Lara enforcing the follow-on. With a target of 153, England needed 66 runs from their last four batsmen — one more run than their first four had given them — and the decision whether they would bat again yesterday looked to be Lara's alone to make.

Long before lunch,

though, West Indies supporters were searching for something to cheer about as the chance of the follow-on slipped — or rather was slipped — away. As Mark Ramprakash completed the most important half-century of this tour, West Indies supporters fell to remembering fondly that he had a Guyanese father. It was a desperate attempt at a silver lining that only served to prove the cloud.

From 75 for six, West

Indies fielders casually, often apparently even carelessly, and on occasions outright negligently, allowed the score to drift to 139 for seven. They then gave up 30 runs for the last wicket. In contrast, England made 95 runs from those last four wickets — and two of those batsmen went for ducks.

West Indies in their first innings had lost their last seven wickets for 57 after the first two had managed only 35. Had Shivnarine Chanderpaul not been dropped when he was on nine, the West Indies total would have been at least

111 runs fewer. The most important new coaching tool for the West Indies team would have to be a calculator.

The Welshman Robert Croft, batting with a daffodil in his pad on St David's Day, contributed a vital 26 in the critically important eighth-wicket partnership with Mark Ramprakash which brought 64 runs, but the follow-on was more likely averted because West Indies seemed to be fielding with leaks in their trousers. They certainly had leaks in their defences.

So-called reputable fielders escorted balls to the

boundary without trying to impede or even affect their progress. Captain Lara himself chased a catch off a Walsh no-ball all the way to fine leg, only to drop Phil Tufnell anyway. Tufnell, whose value as a batsman is usually limited to entertaining the crowd, faced 31 deliveries before he was removed.

You could count on one hand the number of times a West Indian threw himself to the ground to save a boundary. The prevailing ethic seemed to be that black men don't dive.

Their lackadaisical approach continued into the

beginning of their second innings. Given opening batsmen like Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell, the prudent West Indian fan now assumes a starting scoreline of 0 for 2. Stuart Williams as a batsman could safely be given out while still in the pavilion. Save time. Perhaps it may be necessary to bring in the third umpire to get a television close-up just to make sure it was Stuart Williams and then declare him out the moment he put on his pads.

Campbell was very unlucky to be given out caught off his thigh-pad

and Chanderpaul unlucky still to get a good run-out call from the slow-motion replay. No human beings, and very few Test umpires, would have given him out on the evidence of the naked eye, certainly not at Bourda with West Indies on 32 for two.

The brightest colour of the day came from the meanderings of a mongrel dog who strolled on to the pitch in the first session and casually took a dump in the region of point. The television cameras zoomed in for a close-up. It may well have been a fair summary of the day's play.

second over and should have been stumped by David Williams, but he fumbled the chance. A dog immediately wandered on to the outfield, and left an apt comment on the quality of wicketkeeping in this match.

Croft was eventually out for 26, caught by Lara at slip as he tried to cut Hooper, but he and Ramprakash, undisturbed by Ambrose, had added 64 for the seventh wicket.

Battling Mayock and Edwards strike gold for Britain

Duncan Mackay sees victories for a gritty runner and a back-to-form world record holder on the final day of the European Indoor Athletics Championships in Valencia

JOHAN MAYOCK won the 3,000 metres and Jonathan Edwards, in the triple jump, earned Britain a second gold medal at the Velodromo Luis Puig here last night.

Barnsley-born Mayock showed Yorkshire grit to overcome strong-arm tactics bordering on the illegal and deny the Spanish trio of Manuel Pancorbo, Alberto Garcia and Isaac Vico.

He refused to concede the inside lane at the start of the last of the 15 laps and was

pushed by an angry Garcia. This only acted as a catalyst for the 37-year-old Briton, who opened a three-yard lead he never surrendered as he took the tape in 7min 55.09sec.

This was without doubt the most unpopular victory of the weekend. The race had been deliberately scheduled as the last track event because it was the Spaniards' best chance of a gold medal, and Mayock was accused of blocking the Spaniards with his elbows.

"We wouldn't have minded

losing in a clean race," said Pancorbo. "He's a good enough British runner to have won without that."

Pancorbo refused to shake his hand at the medal ceremony and Mayock's lap of honour was booed by the crowd.

Mayock responded by pointing to his British vest. "I know how the bull feels now," he said later.

Earlier this year his coach, the former Commonwealth 1500m champion Peter Elliott, accused him of being more interested in chasing money than medals. That looked a clever piece of psychology as Elliott, attending a major championships for the first time as a team coach, roared his protest to victory.

Unlike Ashia Hansen there was no world record for Ed-

wards, but the fourth element that has been missing from his performances for the last two years was back: it was hop, step, jump and smile as he took the gold medal with a leap of 17.43 metres.

Edwards has often looked a haunted figure since his astonishing performances of three years ago when he raised the triple-jump world record of 18.28m in winning the world championships in Gothenburg.

"Jumping indoors was about getting rid of the frustration of the last two years," Edwards said. "The importance of Gothenburg was greater than I appreciated at the time. I feel more free and more relaxed now."

"I don't warm-up wishing I was somewhere else."

He was the hottest favourite of these championships, having jumped 30 centimetres further than his closest rival, but warned his supporters that it would need more than just turning up to take the gold medal. In effect he was wrong, sealing victory with his very first jump and finishing 28 centimetres ahead of his nearest rival, Germany's Charles Friedek.

The golds were tinged with disappointment for Julian Golding and Tony Jarrett in the 200m and 500m hurdles respectively. Golding finished fourth as the Ukraine's Sergey Gavrilyuk raced to victory in 20.40sec ahead of Aninos Marcoulides of Cyprus and Golding's team-mate Allyn Condon, whose bronze was the first of his senior career.

Jarrett failed to reach even the final of the hurdles and at

29 he seems destined never to put a golden seal on a career lived in the long shadow of Colin Jackson.

Britain finished the three-day event with six medals, the most unexpected being Diane Allahgreen's bronze in the 800m hurdles. The 23-year-old Liverpool runner improved her personal best by 0.21 to clock 8.02 in the final and finish third. France's Patricia Girard won in 7.85.

England's Darren Campbell, coached by Linford Christie, finished third behind the world 100 metres champion Maurice Greene in the Botany Bay Athletics Gift professional race in Sydney. Jon Drummond, another American, was second. Birchfield's Katharine Merry was second in the women's 100 yards race.



Winner... John Mayock

PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL COLE